

North KEYNOTE American

Slow Traffic Net: Tuesday & Thursday 9pm EST on 3.682

Slow Ragchewing Group: W8BI 8pm EST Wed on 3.720

Century Award Net: Sunday 2000Z on 14.058MHz

Saturday QSO Groups: 14.058 at 2000Z and 7.058 at 2300Z

Please keep watch on the Novice Bands and frequencies ending in .x58
(.058, .158, .258 etc)

Accuracy Transcends Speed

Courtesy At All Times

Hello FISTS! I hope you enjoyed the Novice RoundUp. I made a few contacts myself, and heard a lot of FISTS on the air. The logs aren't all in and tallied yet, but keep in mind that this isn't your typical contest where quantity of contacts is the most important thing. The purpose of the RoundUp is to get people on the air and get their feet wet in contesting. Even if the Novice/Tech QSO's were few and far between, I consider it to be a success if we got even a few more hams to be comfortable on the air.

There was some dissention about whether we should have allowed phone contacts, since we are a CW club and we're sponsoring the contest. My point of view is that we are taking up where the ARRL left off. It's still the Novice RoundUp, not a FISTS contest, per se, so any band or mode that Novice/Techs are able to use should be allowed. We'll reevaluate it for next year after the logs and comments are in, so send in yours!

Next year should bring even more activity for the RoundUp. I've been contacted by several generous people who want to sponsor plaques and prizes for the winners, which will be a terrific incentive. If we can get more publicity, that would be great too. If you have any suggestions, please send them along.

We are passing the torch of the Code Buddy Coordinator this month from Ed **WA3WSJ** to John **W9EM**. Ed is writing a book on the history of the telegraph, doing a lot of research and just doesn't have the time to devote to the Code Buddy program. A huge thank you to Ed for all his work, he really got the Code Buddy program up and running. It's been a huge success and an important part of what makes

FISTS, "FISTS".

John has graciously agreed to take it over. Please be patient during the transition period. Ed is going to pass along his files to John and get him up to speed, so if you've applied for a Code Buddy don't worry - you don't have to reapply. John's address will be on the "How Do I..." page in this issue of the KeyNote.

We also have a new Club Presentation Manager, Joe **KKSNA**. Thanks to all who responded to my plea for help in the last KeyNote! It's heartening to know so many people are willing to help. I've got the letters on file, and when something else comes up, you'll be the first ones I contact. As with the Code Buddy program, it's going to take a while for Joe to get up to speed with the Presentation kits. I still haven't gotten all the materials to him yet, but we should be set to go by the end of March. When writing to Joe, be sure to let him know the approximate attendance so we can send you an adequate amount of sample newsletters.

I also have a fresh supply of the tri-fold brochures which tell about FISTS and include an application. If you would like a supply of these to put out at your local hamfest or include with your QSLs or a supply of sample Keynotes, drop me a note and let me know.

Our new Award Manager, Joe **N3LBC**, reports that the Century Award program is going full speed ahead - he has made contact with Bob in England and has been issuing Century Awards.

The Dayton Hamvention will be here before we know it - along with the Spring Sprint, which is the second weekend in May! Hope to CU there!
Now, on with your KeyNote.....

Welcome to the New FISTS

| Callsign | Name | Number Sponsor | N2YON | Bill | 4391 | (K7UF) |
|----------|--------|--------------------|--------|---------------|------|----------------|
| W5PNY | Harry | 4343 | AD4YB | Edward | 4392 | |
| KQ5D | Laurie | 4344 | KA3FHV | Jeff | 4393 | (WB4ZOF) |
| KC5IGK | Ken | 4345 | KQ6HB | Jere | 4394 | (KT4YY) |
| WD4AIR | Jim | 4346 | KT4OW | Hugh | 4395 | (K5HLR,KB4OPV) |
| KE6PMA | Tim | 4347 | W2HDW | Edward | 4396 | (NP4FW) |
| K6JYJ | Tom | 4348 | N9WOO | Don | 4397 | (WA0RSX) |
| W7OVG | Herb | 4349 | KB8SCJ | Del | 4398 | (KG8DA) |
| W4PJY | Dalton | 4350 | N1YQI | Paul | 4399 | (WB2YOP) |
| KS4DU | Jim | 4351 (AA2HR) | KD7AGC | FISTS NW Club | 4400 | (KD7AGC) |
| VE6ARG | Bill | 4352 (W9LUY) | AA3GV | Ernie | 4401 | (K0QR) |
| AA8WD | Leo | 4353 (HamVention) | WB0IWN | Howard | 4402 | (AA8PJ) |
| WB0YPO | Keith | 4354 (KA1RVV) | N3JAF | Norm | 4403 | (KA1RVV) |
| W0CHJ | Steve | 4355 (K7ZYV) | WA5TUT | Fred | 4404 | |
| N5LU | Bill | 4356 (AA0YY) | KR5L | Jerry | 4405 | (WB2FXK) |
| W2BWQ | Gene | 4357 (AC6TO) | AB5PC | Dave | 4406 | (AC6TO) |
| W7BYG | Bruce | 4358 (N1PT) | K5IGB | Ron | 4407 | (KC5AFL) |
| KG2IP | Philip | 4359 (WB2FXK) | W6IQ | Don | 4408 | |
| N2EY | Jim | 4360 (K3LT) | N9PSR | Wayne | 4409 | (K5HLR) |
| VE3GM | George | 4361 | W5XX | Malcolm | 4410 | (AB5YY) |
| AC4H | Bob | 4362 (AA0YY) | K2JRR | John | 4411 | (KF2MU) |
| N8UGV | Vance | 4363 (K8FLY) | WS7M | Mark | 4412 | |
| WA6ZLP | John | 4364 (KC7QOP) | WA4CET | Bob | 4413 | (W8VQI) |
| WE8T | Rick | 4365 | AC6YG | Mark | 4414 | (K7FD) |
| N6AD | Wally | 4366 (W0ONU) | N5GW | Gene | 4415 | (KA5QYR) |
| N8GMC | Bob | 4367 (KB9MZK) | KC2BQM | Ron | 4416 | |
| N8MAT | Edward | 4368 (W2JSF) | W1DWA | Donald | 4417 | |
| WZ0U | Bill | 4369 (KC0M) | K0YMQ | Jon | 4418 | (AI9L/AF9H) |
| K1ZDI | Hank | 4370 (K9JXW) | KC8GPR | Paul | 4419 | (WB0CFF) |
| KB8SLU | Larry | 4371 (KC8BDM) | KB9ROB | Dean | 4420 | (W6DDB) |
| AD6B | Art | 4372 (WA6RND) | KZ7L | Robert | 4421 | |
| N0AAA | Jan | 4373 (WB2UEC) | N5TW | Tom | 4422 | |
| W5FRS | Dennis | 4374 (KA8OQF) | KA0EOS | Cyril | 4423 | |
| WS4S | Conard | 4375 (W4HZD) | W4IAS | Walace | 4424 | (K2SB) |
| W5BH | Ed | 4376 (KQ4VH) | KC8AUT | David | 4425 | (W8LHG) |
| KC6JHV | John | 4377 (N6RNP) | WC0G | Pete | 4426 | |
| K5JGU | Duane | 4378 (K5KV/KA5QYR) | K8NGO | John | 4427 | (WB9MII) |
| NB1Q | Ed | 4379 (WB2HEK) | WB4DYJ | Milo | 4428 | (KE4WCW) |
| KF4UEX | Jack | 4380 (W4HZD) | N2ZDV | Becky | 4429 | (KG2HG) |
| AB6UO | Al | 4381 (KB7PIM) | KJ4SJ | Ray | 4430 | (WA4TOJ) |
| N1YNO | Chris | 4382 (AA8YY) | AD4DX | Willis | 4431 | |
| WB9FCZ | Bill | 4383 (KB3AWR) | W1DDW | Tom | 4432 | (W1MCG) |
| N7KBJ/0 | Jim | 4384 (KC7QOP) | KS4BG | Edgar | 4433 | (N3YVW) |
| KF4T | Ted | 4385 | WJ3I | Jim | 4434 | (KA4IFF) |
| KA9CRF | Don | 4386 (K8UGL) | KB4ULR | Robert | 4435 | (K7FD) |
| KB9QHU | Mike | 4387 (WA6SBB) | WB9VLK | Diana | 4436 | (N9ZUT) |
| VE1MT | Layton | 4388 | K1QQ | Kent | 4437 | (W4HZD) |
| N9RZL | Gale | 4389 (webpage) | KB8NNG | Dennis | 4438 | (K3CJQ) |
| KB8UKF | Gary | 4390 | WD8IYN | Fred | 4439 | |
| | | | WM9U | John | 4440 | |

| | | | | | | | |
|--------|----------------------|------------|-----------|--------|---------|------|-----------|
| K3TE | Robert | 4441 | | W6HQA | Howard | 4491 | (W6NKE) |
| W7IQO | Bob | 4442 | (KA5QYR) | K4PK | Don | 4492 | (K4UK) |
| KE3HW | Stanley | 4443 | (WB2FXK) | KB2UZM | Bert | 4493 | (W6DDB) |
| K6FFF | Vista Valley CW Club | 4444(KS6Z) | | K4SNS | Art | 4494 | (KB4OPV) |
| K6LQ | Mike | 4445 | | KC8DJH | Jaymes | 4495 | (W6DDB) |
| K6SDW | Ed | 4446 | (K6LQ) | KC7ZMP | Glenn | 4496 | (N1CSD) |
| N6EAL | Lonnie | 4447 | (K5HLR) | KI5HI | Charles | 4497 | (AB5YY) |
| WW1L | Bob | 4448 | (N1QLF) | KF4RBK | Eddie | 4498 | (N4GD) |
| KB4MCP | Dempsey | 4449 | (NW3N) | KC5WES | Richard | 4499 | (AC5GG) |
| AB5UA | Clif | 4450 | (KJ7NS) | K2DW | Bill | 4500 | (KD2IX) |
| AC6RY | Roger | 4451 | (K7FD) | W4REF | Calvin | 4501 | (N4OT) |
| N1BBR | Duane | 4452 | | W8CSU | Ed | 4502 | (W3TZW) |
| K3YNL | Albert | 4453 | | W7ZZZ | Gene | 4503 | (AF5Z) |
| AB7VS | Charles | 4454 | | W4VS | William | 4504 | (KB4OPV) |
| KA2OWZ | Bob | 4455 | (KI8CZ) | KS4TL | Jeff | 4505 | (W2QU) |
| N3CUM | Stephen | 4456 | | KK7JA | Richard | 4506 | (webpage) |
| KQ8C | Roger | 4457 | (K8JD) | KG2LU | Martin | 4507 | (K4PTU) |
| AA7EQ | Robert | 4458 | (K5HLR) | KA0VZZ | Loretta | 4508 | (K6DF) |
| K3HXC | John | 4459 | (K5HLR) | | | | |
| KC6KRW | Bill | 4460 | (K6TV) | | | | |
| W9SJS | Tom | 4461 | | | | | |
| VE7BSU | John | 4462 | (W4ZCR) | | | | |
| KT4AD | John | 4463 | (N3XT) | | | | |
| KU4OK | Bob | 4464 | (K3WWP) | | | | |
| WB5QYT | Tom | 4465 | (WA6RND) | | | | |
| W0CLS | Jim | 4466 | (N3RSD) | | | | |
| W3IA | Tom | 4467 | (AC5JH) | | | | |
| KC8GFF | Paul | 4468 | (K6DF) | | | | |
| KF6AUO | John | 4469 | (K6DF) | | | | |
| KA4CLM | Arnold | 4470 | | | | | |
| WB8NTR | Larry | 4471 | (WB2FXK) | | | | |
| W5ZR | Bert | 4472 | | | | | |
| KD4RHH | Don | 4473 | (W6DDB) | | | | |
| KB3BHE | Walt | 4474 | (KC8GOI) | | | | |
| KW5X | Hugh | 4475 | (webpage) | | | | |
| KK5QA | Barbara | 4476 | (KK5NA) | | | | |
| WA3NRC | Harold | 4477 | (K5HLR) | | | | |
| AC5P | Mike | 4478 | (W4DON) | | | | |
| WA2IBD | Dave | 4479 | (AA8VM) | | | | |
| K8YA | Tom | 4480 | (W8DYF) | | | | |
| W8PHW | Owen | 4481 | (K5HLR) | | | | |
| AB5YC | Joe | 4482 | (WD8OCV) | | | | |
| W6MWL | Oscar | 4483 | (W0GV) | | | | |
| W6JD | Doug | 4484 | (K7GT) | | | | |
| WA0RSE | Paul | 4485 | (N9TU) | | | | |
| VE3DCS | Charles | 4486 | (K7GT) | | | | |
| WB8NYV | Jimmy | 4487 | (AA8YO) | | | | |
| K4BX | Bill | 4488 | (webpage) | | | | |
| KB7TMU | Russell | 4489 | (K4YKI) | | | | |
| W1MXI | Bob | 4490 | (W1RFW) | | | | |

Call Changes

Karen #2407 was KD4GTM, now W4GTM
 Chuck #2730 was N3TSO is now N3ON
 WC #2063 was KK5VI is now W5GXW
 Scott #3694 was N1XIJ is now AA1TF
 Linda #3847 was KB1BMO is now KK1C
 Henry #2706 was N1SNH is now K1WCC
 Gail #3672 was KE4YBS is now N4AUF
 Dale #3200 was KE6TEN is now AD6EF
 Al #2956 was WB6FHK is now K6NOF
 Dale #3875 was AC5KI is now K5NQ
 Homer #4035 was WB8WBQ is now W8QYW
 Bob #2646 was KE4FKX is now W4FKL

Congratulations To:

Bill **N2YKH** #1577 on his upgrade to Extra!
 Gary **KC5PPO** #2924 on his upgrade to Extra!
 Scott **AA1TF** #3694 on his upgrade to Extra!
 Bill **W4STX** #3921 on his upgrade to Extra!
 Jim **KC8BDM** #4240 on his upgrad to General!
 Linda **KK1C** #3847 on her upgrade to Extra!
 Ron **KB9LSH** #4004 on his upgrade to Advanced!
 Dale **AD6EF** #3200 on his upgrade to Extra!
 Roland **KG2LO** #2980 on his upgrade to Extra!

Corrections

Ron #4281 was incorrectly listed in New FISTS list
 as WB8GRH - his correct call is **WB9GRH**.
 Gerald **K4GD**, #1019 was incorrectly identified as
 N8GO in last month's newsletter.

Correction

Ed Woodson, NC5S, did not write the "Fiction or Forecast" article printed in last months Keynote. It had been sent to him in a group of articles and he submitted it for the Keynote because he thought it was worthy. The author is unknown.

John K3WWP's URL Change

I know that many of you visit my web site from time to time, and I appreciate that very much. You should be aware that my site has moved to a new address - <http://www.alltel.net/~johnshan>. If you haven't visited in a while, please do, many things have changed, and many more links and much more information added, including a feature promoting CW among teenagers.

Our sincere condolences to Joe Pardue K5HLR and his family. His son, Dan, lost a valiant fight against a brain tumor on January 31, 1998. As you know, Joe sends out the application brochures and sample newsletters to prospective FISTS members for us. I'm sure you join me in thanking him for his dedication to FISTS, especially during such a difficult time.

SILENT KEY

Please be advised that Stew Green KB9IWF (FISTS #3905) became a silent key on 15 January 1998. He had just recently become active on the ham bands after a long period off the air, and had recently upgraded his equipment and joined FISTS. His many ham friends from Niagra Falls, NY, where he lived before moving to Indiana will miss him. de Chuck W8LQ

Wanted

An Internet address for Kent keys
contact C. M. (Sam) Shearer, WB5ZJN, #1989
3136 Englewood Drive
Stow, OH 44224
cshearer@kent.edu
330/688-6810

FISTS on DXPEDITION

Grant, K2ACW #2573, writes, " I will be on the island of Antigua from April 9 thru April 19, 1998, operating with the callsign V21CW, 10 thru 80 meters, CW only. I would like to work as many fists as possible and will make a special attempt to frequent the usual x.058 fists calling frequencies. In addition I will also be looking for novice/techs on 28108, 21108, 7108, 3708. On the WARC bands I will use 10118, 18088, 24908.

"If you hear me in a pileup and I call you, send rst and "fists" I will only be able to exchange rst and fists number with you at that time...will not be able to qso. I usually attract a lot of attention on the bands but on the fists frequencies I will be able to exchange the usual information other than just rst and number (name, QTH, etc.). If a pileup starts to develop on the fists calling frequency I will QSY up or down so the calling frequency is clear. I look forward to working all the great friends I have met while in the FISTS club and also many new ones. QSL is via K2ACW (ex KA2DIV)."

This isn't until April, but I thought I better get it in this issue of the KeyNote in case the printing of the March issue is delayed. Thanks for spending time on the Novice bands, Grant, I'm sure it will be appreciated. Don't miss a chance to work Grant in Antigua, mark your calendars!

PHOTOPAGE WINNER

This month's lucky photopage winner is Michael, N8UJZ #1571. He wins a gift pack of FISTS supplies just for sending in his photo for our FISTS Photopages. Each month we have a computer generated drawing of all the folks who have sent in their photo. *You could be our lucky winner next month - IF you've sent in your photo!* It doesn't have to be a professional photo - any snapshot where your face is about the size of a quarter is fine. Photos cannot be returned or edited. Send your photo to Ken W8ROG, 44609 N Bunker Hill, Clinton Twp, MI 48038.

Wanted

All back Issues of Keynote. Originals or foto copies
Will pay fair price! Steve N6TT 310-3186990
Email N6TT@Telegraph-Wireless.com

FISTS CENTURY NET

Thanks to all for your support of the "new" Century Net. Here are a few hints to help keep the net running smoothly:

1) Check your frequency - be sure your RIT is not causing you to be high or low. If you're off frequency, NCS may not hear you trying to check in.

2) Please try to QNI (check in) during the first hour if at all possible. We will take you ANYTIME, but you won't know who is there if you are real late.

3) When you check in, let the NCS know if you are not going to stay to participate. This will save a lot of time trying to call you by the net members.

Please try to help and the net will continue to run as smoothly as it can.

Stations desiring to use the frequency PLEASE call QRL before engaging your CQ. If the net is in progress SOMEONE will hear you and let you know. We are getting a lot of QRM from CQ callers who don't check first. As we all know, with the propagation the way it is on 20, you may not hear the other station, but we will hear you.

Check-ins (QNI) for 11 Jan: W9LUY, WA6RND, W8BL, AC6TO, N4ZMP, N8WPX, W6MNZ, AA7XQ, WZ8C, W7CTL, KB8PAD, WB3HEC, KC5VX/NCS

Check-ins (QNI) for 18 Jan: AC6TO, KE4HZM, KC5VJU, WA6RND, KC8EPA, W8FAX, N4OT, WD8OCV, N4RKR, N4VEF, W3JIM, W7BWI, N4VEF, KB5VTB, KC7YWD.

Check-ins (QNI) for 25 Jan: K8EY, K4UK, W9LUY, N3SRD, WA6RND, AB5YY, N4VFF, KQ6NS, N3XT, WB2UEC, W3DV, WP2T, N5VC, W6JIM, AC6TO/NCS

Check-ins (QNI) for 1 Feb: KQ6NS, K7FD, K8EY, WA6RND, KC5VJU, AC6TO, W6KFW, K7ZYV, VE6KJL, K9HBY, VA3JJ, K6SRZ, N5VC, KC7YWD, KC5NRB, VE4GEC, WB8OZX, W8FAX/NCS.

Check-ins (QNI) for 9 Feb: VA3JPM, K4UK, AA9KH, N4VEF, K2SWZ, KI4IH, K7FD, KC5NRB, WA6RND, K0HFK, AI9L, WB2HEK, VA3JJ, WA4LDQ, VE1QJ, N1RVQ, N5AF, AF5Z, VE4GEC, W2WSS, VY2RB, KB8AZS, KB2PLW, VE4GEC, HP1AC, AC6TO/NCS

QSL BUREAU STATISTICS

Altho people may say people don't QSL like they used to and they never hear any FISTS on the air, you sure can't back up those statements by our QSL Bureau statistics. This is the QSL Bureau report for the month of January! A big Thank You to Stan and the Franklin County ARA for all their work!

| <u>Call Sign Area</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1 | 246 |
| 2 | 524 |
| 3 | 261 |
| 4 | 599 |
| 5 | 318 |
| 6 | 294 |
| 7 | 210 |
| 8 | 538 |
| 9 | 214 |
| 0 | 172 |
| VE | 176 |
| DX-NA/SA | 37 |
| DX-EUROPE | 329 |
| <i>Totals</i> | <i>3918</i> |

Largest day was 490 cards received in January 20 mail.

CODE BUDDY TESTIMONIAL

For me, the most enjoyable part of FISTS has been the Code Buddy program. Since October, I have had pleasure of having scheduled QSOs with Karen, **AD4UI**, twice a week. The conditions of the bands have not always been in our favor. Nevertheless, we have had many great, long chats. Karen is a very patient, a great teacher, and a friend. I truly look forward to the QSOs that we have scheduled. We always find plenty to chat about and usually see an hour or so tick away during our conversations! My code speed and proficiency in copying code have really improved since I've been working with Karen. If any FISTS have considered joining the Code Buddy program and are a little hesitant, take it from me -- it's a great way to work on your code speed and at the same time get to know another FIST. It's a lot of fun! Laurie N1YXU #3382

DAYTON UPDATE

Pete K8OUA reports that the Windows Lounge at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Downtown Dayton (ex-Stouffers) is reserved for us on Friday evening of the hamvention -- 7:00 PM till we're done!!

Beginner's Guide to the FISTS QSL Bureau
Basically the QSL Bureau works like this:

written by Stan K4UK

Pack up all your QSL cards you have for contacts with other FISTS members and send them to us. We sort the cards and put them in the SASE's (Self Addressed Stamped Envelopes) which the members have sent to us. When we get 6 to 7 cards we mail them. Various members of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club of Rocky Mount, VA assist me in the work of the QSL Bureau. Final sorting and mailing of envelopes is done by these members.

To get cards which are sent via the Bureau for you, you need SASE's on file with us. We suggest #10 business size envelope (4-1/8" x 9-1/2") which will work for nearly all QSL card sizes. The smaller personal size envelope (3-5/8" x 6-1/2") will work for most QSL cards, but there are some cards larger than 3-5/8" - especially some of the DX cards. Some of the fellows send 6" x 9" Kraft envelopes which can handle all cards sizes I've ever seen.

Your SASE should have at least a 32 cent stamp in upper right hand corner. Your address goes in the normal address portion of the envelope and put your call in large letters in the upper left hand corner. We suggest a minimum of three SASE's be sent. We will put a number in the lower left hand corner of each of your SASE's to indicate which envelope is being used. We will include a note when we have used your last envelope to send cards to you, and probably also will note on the rear flap - "Last Envelope in Bureau".

When you send in additional cards you can then send in additional SASE's. If we get a real bunch of cards for you, we may well put them all in the one envelope and add postage as required. We appreciate your sending additional postage with your next batch of cards if we do this.

Based on the weight of my QSL card the following postal rates apply per the scales in the Moneta Post Office:
1 ounce = 7 cards = 32 cents to mail; 2 ounces = 15 cards = 55 cents; 3 ounces = 23 cards = 78 cents

You can send QSL's for contacts with foreign FISTS members to us and we will forward them to Bob Lowe in England who handles the distribution of QSL cards for overseas DX. We handle cards for Canadian FISTS and other DX FISTS on this side of the Atlantic.

So, send us your QSL cards and some SASE's and you're set up to use the Bureau. It won't do any good to send cards for contacts with stations who are not FISTS members as they won't have SASE's on file with us. Also, it is a good idea to tell the FISTS station that you will QSL via the Bureau. In that way he will know that you have SASE's at the Bureau.

If you send in a "bunch" of cards it would be appreciated if you sort them by call number. It makes the initial sort go much faster. But, you don't have to further sort them alphabetically.

Special Note for Canadians and other DX using the Bureau:

Since all mail we send out from the Bureau must have U.S. postage stamps, you will have to put U.S. stamps on your SASE's. Since obtaining U.S. stamps may be hard, if not impossible, we suggest that you send SAE's (Self-Addressed-Envelopes) without stamps and some funds to cover the stamps we will obtain for you. Such funds can be "Green Stamps" or checks. If checks, please make them out to me, Stan Reas, as my bank will not honor checks made out to FISTS QSL Bureau.

The cost of postage for mail from U.S. to Canada and Mexico is different from that within the states. Likewise the cost to other countries is different. Based on the weight of my QSL card the following rates would apply:

For Canada and Mexico :

| Weight | Postage | Cards |
|-----------|----------|-------|
| .5 oun | 46 cents | 3 |
| 1 oun | 52 cents | 7 |
| 1.5 ounce | 64 cents | 11 |
| 2 ounces | 72 cents | 15 |
| 3 ounces | 95 cents | 23 |

For Other Countries:

| Weight | Postage | Cards |
|--------|----------|-------|
| .5 oz | 60 cents | 3 |
| 1 oz | \$1 | 7 |
| 1.5 oz | \$1.40 | 11 |
| 2 oz | \$1.80 | 15 |
| 2.5 oz | \$2.20 | 19 |
| 3 oz | \$2.60 | 23 |

YOUR CALLSIGN

32 cent
stamp

Your Name

Your Street Address

Your City, State, and Zip Code

sample SASE (suggest #10 size 4 1/4 x 9 1/4)

THE TRAFFIC HOUND by Pete K8OUA

I've said it numerous times, traffic nets are very different from rag chewing nets. As more and more hams get used to the rag chewing nets on two meters, they expect that all nets are the same. Well, they're not. I call traffic nets "business nets", because they are there not as a place where hams just meet and ragchew, but they meet to conduct specific business, the passing of formal traffic. This makes them a very different sort of animal, and you need to be aware of that when you check into one.

First of all, while most NCSs are friendly guys who smile a lot and treat their significant others with respect and sensitivity, they usually don't have the time on a traffic net to be whooping it up and chatting. They have business to conduct. If you want to hear good examples of this listen in on some of the wide area traffic nets, e.g., the Eastern Area Net (EAN) — 8.30 PM Eastern Time on 3.670 MHz — those guys have a lot of traffic to pass and not enough time to do it, so they don't chat!

When you QNI (check into) a traffic net be conscious of the need to save time. The first thing that can go is the sending of callsigns. What?! you say, the FCC will have my guts for garters! Hang on, I didn't say never send it, but there is no requirement that you send your callsign after every transmission. Every ten minutes and at the end of the QSO, is required. You need to send it when you check into the net, so the Net Control Station will know who he's talking to. When you come back, if ten minutes has gone by, send it again, yours only, not the NCSs. Finally, send it when you leave the net. There is no need to send the callsign of the NCS at all. It is a waste of time and holds the net up.

Use abbreviations -- a special set of Q signals just for traffic nets. They go a long way towards making life simpler on a traffic net.

How do you QSO on FSN? Well, the short answer is, you really don't QSO much on the FISTS Slow Net. What's that you say? Why bother to check in then? Well, because you have traffic to send; you want to help someone get their traffic delivered by relaying or delivering it for them, or because you want to learn how to send and receive traffic. Many of our faithful QNI the FSN regularly but never have traffic to send, and rarely take any traffic. I love having them with us, but, they would find the whole exercise a lot more fun if they picked a relative a few states away and sent that person a radiogram. Nothing fancy,

simply a little note to say "hi". It could be as simple as two words, using the ARRL numbered radiograms -- simply "ARL FIFTY" which means "Greetings by amateur radio." I'd include a third word in the message, "love", then sign it with your name -- a nice way to say hello to someone you care about but don't see very often. If you QNI the FISTS Slow Net, you'll get help in sending your message off. If you don't know how to write it up, then read on McDuff!

Each formal message has four parts. The first part is the record keeping part of the message, called the preamble. The second part is the recipient's address. The third part is the text of the message itself. The fourth part is the signature, telling who sent the message. Pretty straight forward, eh?

This month I will explain the preamble. It contains eight parts, but only six are regularly used. Without the preamble the message is not considered a formal piece of traffic. The first part of the preamble is the message number. This is usually a sequential number that begins with "1" on the first day of January and goes on until December 31. The next item is the priority of the message. Unless you are involved in an emergency situation, a natural catastrophe, for example, all your traffic will be "R", for routine. There are other priorities, and these can be found in places such as the ARRL's Public Service Handbook.

Next are the handling instructions, but these are not compulsory and are usually not included. Next is the callsign of the originating station, that is, the station that first put the message into the system. Then, comes a number called the "check". This is the number of words in the text part of the message, not including the signature, nor the address. After that is the city and state of origin, ie., where the message was written. The time the message was written is next, but almost never used for routine traffic. The last part of the preamble is the month and date the message was written. This is always sent using the first three letters of the month, and then the date. If I sent a six word message that was the fifteenth message I had written for the year, the preamble would look like this: 15 R K8OUA 6 Warren OH Feb 13. There is NO punctuation, and the parts of the message are not identified, it is assumed that you know what each part is.

Next month we'll look at the rest of the message. I look forward to seeing you QNI the FISTS Slow Net on Tuesday and Thursday at 9.00 PM Eastern time on 3.682 MHz. Stop in and say hello, but more importantly, stop in and send a message to someone. 73, es ARF, Pete K8OUA

Thumb Dits vs Finger Dits

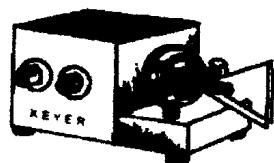
This topic has generated a lot of discussion! Here are the latest thoughts from FISTS on the subject:

From Charles **WB8BSE**, #3574, In 1944 at US Navy Radio School our code instructors used straight keys up to about 10 wpm. They began alternating with a bug to acquaint us with the slight difference in sound and cadence; up to about 15 wpm. Over 15 wpm; all bug. In instructors alternated for some down time but they used the same bug (thumb dits). But - one instructor was right handed and the other was a south paw. They just knew how to send code their personal way. I doubt the bug even knew if it was sending finger or thumb dits! So, why bother?

From Russ **WA2VQV**, #3179, I am a Southpaw. At Keesler AFB (USAF) Radio School in 1955, I learned to send left handed on a J-38 straight key. While "on the line" in Germany, I learned to send on a right handed Vibroplex bug with my left hand. So, at that time, I was sending finger dits. I got my ham ticket (as a happy civilian) in 1961 and purchased a used left handed vibroplex original model bug from the vibroplex store in New York City for \$12. From that time on I have been a thumb ditter. Yes Jim, **KC8BAA**, left handed bugs do exist!

From Jack **KA8WNO**: My early experience with CW was in the navy, just before World War II. I was interested in amateur radio prior to that, but had no one around to be my Elmer. After I was transferred to an aircraft squadron in Pensacola, Fl., I was given the job of helping cadet pilots with Morse code. I'm a lefty. My boss said I should switch from sending left-handed, since most of the cadets were right-handers. This worked out ok, as I learned to send well with my "wrong" hand, both with straight key and bug. After the war I finally received help, and my general ticket (K3DKE). Too money-strapped to buy a new Vibroplex bug, I made one out of odds and ends. A year later, QST published an article describing how to make a keyer. Keyers had only been on the market for a year or two. I built a keyer and converted my bug to a keyer paddle. I can't send code with my left hand, but am strictly a left-hander in everything else and have a ham friend that does the same. Until I read about Finger-Ditter or Thumb-Ditters, I had never heard of a "Finger-Ditter". I can't imagine it would make a bit of difference.

From Joe **N3NY**: Basically, I agree with the majority with the thumbs sending the dits for right handers and I also agree do whatever works best for you! On the other hand I can also send on the paddles using my left hand. and the thumb also sends the dits. What I do to accomplish this is I position the paddles on my left side with the paddles pointing to the 2 o'clock position and rest the palm of my left hand on the base of the paddle. The index finger is on the right dah paddle and the thumb on the left dit paddle. It's very comfortable and now I can write with my right hand!



Wanted

Mercury paddles by
Steve Nurkiewcz N2DAN
Will pay top dollar!
Steve N6TT 310-3186990
Email N6TT@Telegraph-Wireless.com

Wanted To Buy or Trade:

Telegraph-Wireless Pieces
By private collector!
Keys, Bugs, Paddles, Books, Etc.
Will pay fair prices!
Steve N6TT 310-3186990
Email N6TT@Telegraph-Wireless.com

*It's better to be a
Slow Code Tech
than a No Code Tech*

- Joe, N3NY

QRP with John Shannon

First of all this month, some very important news. I know many of you visit my web site regularly, and if you are not already aware of it, I have a new URL -<http://www.alltel.net/~johnshan> If you were turned off by the advertising on GeoCities, this new location for my site has no advertising at all, since Alltel is my ISP, and the web site comes as part of my monthly fee for their service.

I said last month I had some info from N1ODL, so let me present that now, and then address his comments at the end.

Hello John: Have just finished reading several of your articles from the KEYNOTE postings on the web. I find them quite interesting and look forward to reading the next one. I am a new ham (6 years) and have been bitten by the CW and QRP bugs very hard. I got into Amateur radio from a friend (WA1LCW) who bugged me to go with him to a field day about 7 years ago. From then I was hooked.

I also am a member of QRP-L and read the web page daily. One of the topics is about new hams and how they should not try QRP right away. I do not agree with this as I think it is a great learning experience and it teaches them to be better operators early on (you may or may not agree with me on this). I was lucky enough to have several people to be my "Elmer" and was given every opportunity to get on the air under all conditions and power. I chose QRP and CW very early on and have not looked back. The only time I use a mic is when I am in the car. I also have a key in the car for when I am waiting for the xyl or have time to kill. I guess I'm looking to get your thoughts on this topic, either good or bad.

The other topic is on portable antennas for use when traveling or back packing, which I do a lot of in the White Mts. I have found an antenna made by Antenna's West, which I think is the best thing since sliced bread. These antennas are end fed mono band and are extremely easy to tune in the field. I usually tune them at the house for each end of the band and mark the antenna so I don't have to bring my freq. counter to the field or when I am on the road. If I am staying at a hotel, I just drop the one end out the window and am on the air. If I am outside I just throw it over a tree or put it over the bushes. I usually try to set it up as a vertical as I find it gets me further on 20 meters. I also have antennas for 40 and 10 meters. I am not trying to sound like a commercial and I have no ties to the company. I just think, that after long searching for a good portable antenna, I have finally

found one. Oh yea, if you do bring a tuner, you can use the antenna on the next higher or lower band. Another topic you might want to touch on is, for new FISTS members like me, what is the best way to accumulate QSO's with other FISTS members. I have only heard one person calling CQ FISTS (KA4IFF) and when I answered her call, she never gave me her number even after I gave her mine. Is there any protocol or do I just wing it.

Well, I hope I have not overwhelmed you with my questions. Do keep up the excellent work and I hope to hear you on the air someday. Thank you, Aron Brown, Hooksett, NH, N1ODL, FISTS #4110.

As far as starting your ham career with QRP, I think it is great IF (and that's a big IF) you know what you are doing, and can get that 5 (or less) watts to radiate well. Be sure you understand antennas, and how to make them as efficient as possible. If you have an Elmer to help you get set up, that will help. If you run QRP as you start your hamming, and that QRP is not working as it should, you will quickly become discouraged with ham radio. I hear many new (and not so new) hams running 100 watts into very inefficient or unmatched antennas with very feeble signals. If you use that same inefficient or unmatched antenna with QRP, you are not going to make many contacts.

There are many fine portable antennas available. Personally in the little portable operating I do, I prefer just using a random length wire stretched out as far and as high as possible. Use a tuner to match the wire to your rig, and you are set. Try it out at home to get some rough settings for the tuner, and you won't have much trouble getting it to work when you're out in the field.

And finally, I have worked somewhere around 250-300 FISTS without making any special efforts. I just hang out near the FISTS frequencies, and either call CQ (just a regular CQ, not CQ FISTS - only in contests do I call a specific CQ, never in regular operating) or answer someone's CQ. Most of the hams who operate around these frequencies are FISTS, and I just give my number to them. If they are not a FISTS, I explain it to them, and presto, we have a new member. If you're interested strictly in working FISTS to collect numbers, check into one of the nets for that purpose. I prefer rag chewing, and collecting numbers along the way rather than just gathering numbers, but that's just a personal preference.

I thought I'd have time to touch on other matters, but again my space is used up, so 73. Don't forget my new URL. 73 -30-

News and Views From FISTS Members

Merle W3OKN, #1281, read an article on page 12 of the December 1997 issue of the Naval Institute Proceedings that I think you might find amusing. The article deals with an ARPA research contract to develop operational dolphin systems - termed dolphin navigation and ranging (DONAR). The research center has trained a pod of dolphins to perform a myriad of underwater functions, such as placing mines in a mine field, attaching explosives to the hull of a ship, etc. and have adapted to a multimission capability. It was learned that voice-gesture commands with fish chunk reinforcements (rewards) were unsatisfactory. A new system was devised that uses sonar Morse code commands. The dolphins have quickly mastered a lexicon of 25 commands and perform perfectly. Personally, Merle says, he would be embarrassed if dolphins could master Morse code and he couldn't and without the usual fish chunk reward!

From James KC7YWD, #4111: I am fifty years old. 38 years ago I was a novice WN2JLD. Back then, you had to advance your code or lose your license. I hated code. I was afraid I would make a fool out of myself on every QSO. After a year, I was out, with no hope of getting back in. In May of 1997, my wife and I went to the Phoenix Science Museum. While there, she exclaimed, "Oh look dear, they have a radio shack!". We visited and I learned of no code I could think of nothing else. But shortly, I decided I would do Tech Plus, buy a decoder and never touch a key. I started to learn code and fell in love! I got my Tech Plus in July and my General in November. I can't wait to get home to get on the air! CW is all I do! Soon, I started meeting FISTS members; QSO after QSO. I got my FISTS number on December 10, 1997. On December 26, I had an incredible thrill - I had a QSO with FATHER FIST himself! On January 1, 1998 I made my final Century QSO with WSIIS [#1777]. Conditions were so bad I didn't even try to tell Larry that he was number 100! I feel like a kid at Christmas! The last six months have been incredible. Thank you all for FISTS. Long live CW!

Scott AA1TF, #3694: Just wanted to let you and the Club know that I'm now AA1TF. I couldn't have done it without FISTS! Thanks! Congrats Scott!

ACCURACY TRANSCENDS SPEED

From John KB2SUE, #1967: I'm sending a couple extra bucks with my subs, I know FISTS will put it to good use. Can't believe how fast FISTS is growing and it's all word of mouth or should I say fist to ear. We must be doing something right. *Thanks for the extra John! It is amazing how fast we're growing, I like the idea we're doing it fist to mouth - I think that says more than any publicity or advertisement we could buy!*

Bill VE5HQ, #3664: I'm happy to see that some of the contacts I have mentioned "FISTS" to, are showing up in the new members. I think that's great! I have made a few good friends through CW in the short time I have been in the hobby.

Funny thing about CW, and I believe this is one of the two main reasons I enjoy it so much; the general challenge involved in straining through all that QRM; QRN; QSB; someone tuning up on top of you, and then there's the station that can't?? hear either of you and merrily pounds out a 599 CQ on top of you. When you pull off a QSO amongst all that...What can I say? I love it!! That's reason #1. Nw back to the funny thing abt CW, and the other reason I enjoy it so much.

When you send that CQ, and someone comes back, everyone sounds the same. You can't judge someone by the sound of their voice nor are you able to form a mental picture. Hearing an accent or voice pitch, we naturally have a tendency to think, "that person sounds short/fat/tall/skinny/ugly/beautiful." CW takes that away. Sure everyone's CW sounds different. BUT..I have yet to form an image based on the sound of CW. I think that's important. CW is very friendly, neutral mode; non-judgemental so to speak.

Where else can you meet someone, become friends, get together each week for a chat, sharing thoughts, feelings, hopes, dreams, disappointments and sorrows. Becoming close friends for perhaps a lifetime -- accepting, but never seeing each other?

Amateur radio has some great stories involving the "Banding" together of members..we are a unique lot in a great hobby, and among that unique lot are the FISTS..and among the FISTS are friends!

What started all this?..I don't know!..I just think "FISTS" are great people....WHY?....because I don't know any different..and that's the way it should be.

Lon AA1KC, #2022: There ain't nuthin' better than CW....'cept maybe the folks we meet key to key. *Cudn't of said it better myself, Lon!*

From Lauri N1YXU #3382: It has taken me a little while to introduce myself to the FISTS organization. I have been a licensed ham since last April and only use CW. My husband (Bruce, N1LN, and also a FISTS) is to blame! He was in a DX CW contest last February. I got so frustrated that I could understand nothing that was going on and decided to learn Morse code. I earned my Tech Plus license in April and upgraded to General in September.

I am really enjoying being part of the FISTS organization. Usually, I listen around 7.058 and have had the opportunity to meet quite a few interesting and friendly FISTS. My second DX contact was a FIST in the UK, G4RBE, Jack. He sent me a great letter and QSL card that is hanging proudly in our shack. I look forward to many more years of being an active FIST. Keep up the great work. My husband and I read the monthly newsletter cover to cover.

Al W8FAX suggests a new forum at Hamvention this year called "What Repeater is This", for codeless techs so they can learn to identify repeaters that I.D. in code rather than voice! He also suggests a new award for the coming 2000. It would be called DXKC. The award given to handheld operators for "kurchunking" 100 repeaters. *You're right Al, that's not nice, but it is funny!*

Al, KC8EPA: I have to tell you that I love this club, and its agenda, if you will. I hope and pray that I will never see CW overlooked as a basic function of our radio privileges. I can cite many occasions where CW was the best form of communication to the other station I was working. My brother, KC8FNK, and I were showing another ham, Ray KC8FMG, the importance of CW. Ray was at my brother's house. I was at home about 55 to 60 miles away. At my brothers QTH, Ray and Jeff could not hear me on the SSB portion of the band. We then switched to the CW portion, and I was given a 599. Ray was impressed, and is now studying for his 5 wpm. Recently, I had one of the more memorable QSO's that I have ever had, with G3ROO. During our QSO, he turned his power down from 5 watts to 1 watt. I was very impressed that his signal was still readable, but became even more impressed when he turned his power to 100mW. His CW signal still readable. I don't think he could have done that with SSB. I guess that one reason that I like CW so much is that I like challenges, and CW was a challenge for me to learn, not to mention the theory

for each license class. I currently hold a general class license, and am studying for advanced. I am good to about 18 wpm, and will make 20 wpm. I think that there are many hams who feel this way. They can rise to the occasion, and push themselves into trying to learn something that others consider hard. I agree, CW is not easy for every one, but one does not know until he tries. In major league baseball, the players are required to use wooden bats, but aluminum bats make the ball go farther, and easier for the players to get hits. Although it is clearly easier to use an aluminum bat, the league sticks with the tradition, and toughness of wooden bats. So should we with CW.

Joe N2OFG, #2481: I can't describe how enjoyable it is to be a part of an organization that is preserving such an important piece of Ham History. Preserving the code and the CW sub-bands is a very important task. Just think of all the FB ops who have modest stations with simple wire antennas. What would become of them? *Good point Joe, and many thanks for the 'extra' with your subs!*

Jack WB2FXK points out that you're paying for your QSL cards (and postage for sending them in most cases), so load 'em up with info and get your money's worth. He says he's gotten cards lately without any info on them, not even the senders address. Jack sends along a list of things he likes to see on a QSL card: call, name, address, email address, date/time in UTC, frequency, RST, ur rig, antenna and power out, county, grid square, clubs and numbers, other hobbies and maybe even a photo of yourself, rig, QTH. That sure would make one heck of a card!

On the other side of the coin, I get letters from people remarking on how cluttered some QSLs are, they can't find the QSO information without a magnifying glass. Suppose this is one of those "you can't please all the people all of the time" issues? *What do you think?* Should QSLs be purely functional, or should they be mini-biographies? Or do you need to have two styles, one for quickie contest type exchanges and another for your rag chews?

From Jim KB0GQD: Keep up the good work. I really enjoy the KeyNote, as far as I'm concerned it doesn't get any better than that. I don't work many FISTS members, it's hard to get in sometimes. But I can just abt tell when I have one on the other end. Agn, great job! *Thanks, Jim!*

From Roger WB8HBJ, #2947: Imagine my amazement when I was reading an article in the December Keynote, when the author was describing his first ever CW mode QSO and the other operator was ME! I'm referring to N3YSI's letter entitled "In support of Know Code" which was one of the best articles I've read regarding the Morse issue. But the story behind our QSO is interesting, too.

I was up north at my summer cabin last April. I volunteered the use of the cabin for the MI QSO party to the members of my radio club, Hazel Park A.R.C. with the understanding that they would help me get the dock in the water. Wow, we did it in a record one hour's time! Meanwhile, others were stringing up dipoles and getting the station set up for the start of the contest. The operating position was on the front porch of my 60 year old log cabin overlooking AuSable Lake in Ogemaw County. The setting was about as beautiful as it could be. We worked both CW and SSB modes and had a lot of fun, both on and off the air.

Sunday afternoon most of the fellows headed home but two of us decided to stay until six o'clock. It was late on Sunday when I was operating 80 meter SSB that another station mentioned to me, on the air, "Don't forget the Novice's on 40 meter CW". Well, I instantly switched to 7.110 MHz and began calling CQ at about 5 wpm when N3YSI came back to me. He explained it was his first contact on CW and he made several mistakes, but I kept going with probably as many butterflies as he. But I was using paddles and an electronic keyer, and boy was that ever a challenge trying to send at less than ten wpm! I made a lot of mistakes too and I bet he thought I had a lousy fist! The QSO took about forty five minutes, but it was worth it, especially when he described me as "very gracious and understanding". This was the first time I can recall working someone who had never been on the air before.

So I'm really looking forward to this year's Michigan QSO Party in April. We're going back to the cabin and will probably be using our new club call W8HP. (By the way, remember when I caught you, Nancy, on 80 meter SSB during the QSO party? You were kind of embarrassed to be found on phone, but it was sure great to talk to you.) *ARRGH! You weren't supposed to tell anyone that, Roger! HI!* I'm also looking forward to working a lot of novices on the Roundup this weekend. Who knows, maybe I'll get to work another first timer, but this time I'll have my straight key ready!!

From Jim W3JIM, #3899: I received my first KeyNote. I enjoy reading abt the activity going on in the club. Where the heck hv I bn ?. I hv bn pounding brass fer over twenty yrs. Just six weeks ago, I was told abt FISTS by John, KX8LL. He was kind enough to mail me an application which I immediately mailed off to Nancy. TNX John. Nancy e-mailed my 3899 the morning of the sprint, so I was able to get in there es help out wid a new number. TNX Nancy Since then I hv mailed applications to several of my Ham buddies, one who resides in Pearl City Hawaii. Hopefully, Wen, KH6JFS will join us in the fun. We sure can use another Hawaiian Station in the club. I worked my friend Jim, N4RKR this morning. He just got his number 4003. I also had QSO wid GX0IPX...UK club station fists 0001 Geo at the Key. TNX fer the three points Geo.

Roland KG2LO sends his renewal with the news that he actually enjoyed the code test when he passed his Extra exam! That's terrific!

Keith KC5QIQ, #2946, sent in his renewal with the question "Did you ever take a poll of the members to see what their reason for preferring CW over voice? My reason is that you can 'talk' with your mouth full of food when using CW! Hi!" I'm sure that would be in the top five reasons, Keith!

From Gene WB2BWQ, #4357: Dare I as a brand new member of FISTS, have the effrontery to make a suggestion? I see you are nodding - so here goes: Is it feasible or desirable to shorten the "CQ FISTS" call to "CQ/F" or something similar? If done, such could be promulgated in the KeyNote. I'm a CW man of WWII vintage and applaud the effort to sustain and strengthen CW as an amateur mode. In any event, just passing along an idea. One that may, or may not have efficacy. *Well, Gene, as you might imagine, this has been tossed around before. If I were to hear "CQ F" I would think that person were looking for France or an F prefix...Some people use "CQ FTS". We've never had a suggestion that really stuck or took off. Any comments/suggestions from the group?*

Congrats to Jess WS0L, #2928 -he's going to be a Grandpa! He's been busy plowing all that snow they've gotten (he lives in Sedalia, CO). I hope you get more time to get on the air in the Spring, Jess.

Please Listen Before You Transmit

The following article was printed in the Feb. 1997 issue of Radio Amateur Canada. I felt that some of the FISTS who frequent 40 Metres would be interested in reading this so I have sent it on to Nancy to be published in Key Note. I am the author of the article. My name is Rick Peterson VE3FMC # 2767

I am writing this letter to remind everyone in Canada to listen before you transmit. Lately I have had quite a few of my CW QSOs interrupted by SSB QRM on 40 Metres. Why, I have no idea, but I guess that since the lower portion of 40 is open to VEs on phone, some of them figure it open just strictly to SSB.

Remember, this portion of the band is only open to CW in the US. On 7.058 many FISTS members are listening for CQ from other FISTS. More than once I have called CQ, made contact and moved up the band 2 or 3 kHz (I don't QSY down because I respect the TransProvincial Net on 7.055)

I can be enjoying my CW QSO when all of a sudden some SSB stations appear almost on top of us. Why? I realize that CW mode takes up very little band width, but come on, surely you can hear the CW notes.

I have nothing against SSB on the lower end of 40 and I use it sometimes too, during the RAC contests and to work DX. But I don't start calling or chatting right on top of a CW QSO.

The last time this happened in December 1997, it was one of the fellows who is a net controller on the TP Net, he should have known better. One day I was in a QSO and two guys started a SSB QSO right on top of me. One of them even copied my call and wondered where I was, but kept right on talking. Please respect my rights to the frequency, too. I paid my dues like you, and if this is the mode I choose to operate on the lower part of 40, then so be it. I do not call CQ on top of your QSO.

Also, it seems that there are many VE stations who insist on operating phone around 3.710 and other parts of the CW subband below 3.725. I guess they don't realize that it is the US Novice CW band, or they if they do, again they just do not care.

Please show some respect. After all, you are supposed to be hams, not CBers give the novices room to work CW in their rightful spots on the bands. This is their training ground and every night their portion of 80 Metres is full of novices trying to improve their speed so they can upgrade. Give them a break, move above the 3.725 band edge to operate SSB.

The bottom line is that we all in this together. Let's try to be respectful to the rights of others. Maybe IC

made a mistake when they deregulated our bands but we still have Gentlemen's agreement band plans as a framework. Let's listen before we transmit, that is all I ask.

To all of my good FISTS Friends in the USA I offer apologies. I am not sure if Canadians have forgotten over the years that they do not own the freqs between 7.055 to 7.150 as exclusive SSB band or if they just don't care about us using CW down here. It saddens me to think that they just don't care about the rights of others as it gives us a bad reputations. I know that there are enough bad apples in the States, 75 metres is a good case. But I hope that as a Proud Canadian Amateur we never intentionally cause QRM to our American friends. As for the VE stations operating in the 80 Metre Novice CW Subbands, listen to them some night. They just don't care who they interfere with, a sad situation to say the least. Trust me not all Canadian Hams follow this path most of us realize we are in the CW subbands and show respect to the users of CW.

SO ONCE AGAIN PLEASE ACCEPT MY SINCERE APOLOGIES IF YOUR CW QSO HAS BEEN INTERRUPTED BY A VE STATION ON THE LOWER END OF 40. IF IT HAPPENS TO YOU PLEASE TAKE TIME TO WRITE ME WITH THE STATIONS CALLSIGNS AND I WILL ATTEMPT TO CONTACT THEM AND LET THEM KNOW WHAT THEY HAVE DONE. 73 de Rick, VE3FMC # 2767 CANADIAN AND PROUD OF IT!

QRL???

These are quite possibly the three most important letters you can send. If my mail is any reflection on the state of the bands, most bad feelings and misunderstandings come from people calling CQ over existing QSO's and nets. Of course, we all know that no one - not even FISTS - owns any frequency. And that band conditions often prohibit you from hearing QSO's in progress, but they can hear you call CQ.

Please remember to send QRL?? (*Is this frequency in use?*) and then LISTEN. If someone sends a couple dits, or "yes", then simply move up or down a couple and try again. Listen carefully - it may be a net in progress or it may sound clear because you don't hear both sides of the conversation. With over 4000 FISTS members in the world, we need to spread out!! The .058 frequencies are just a guideline. FISTS have a proud reputation as being exceptionally polite and considerate operators (*Does Courtesy At All Times ring a bell?*) - let's maintain our tradition.

The Art and Skill of Telegraphy

Chuck N8WDH and Bill Pierpont N0HFF are working on a revised edition of Bill Pierpont's book The Art and Skill of Telegraphy. FISTS is sold out of the original printing. However, if you have access to the Internet, you may view/download this excellent book courtesy of the Morse Enthusiast Group Scotland Web page. You may link to it thru our FISTS Web page, or connect directly at <<http://www.joates.demon.co.uk/megs/N0HFF/index.htm>>

Jim Reid KH7M, who has an interest in the Candler Code Course covered in this book, told me a way you can import the list of frequently used words into your computer code program. I thought it would be of interest, so here it goes:

An excellent synopsis of the Candler Code Course is given by William Pierpont, N0HFF, in his book "The Art and Skill of Radio Telegraphy." His synopsis of the Candler system is the entire content of Chapter 30. Here he does not list any of Candler's high speed words. However, in Chapter 22, Word Lists for Practice, I suspect he has used much of Candler's material. Pierpont, in Chap 22, first provides some short lists, 15 to 20 words or so each, of extremely common occurrence words of the English language; in fact the 100 most frequently occurring English words. He then provides several sentences using only these words. Finally he lists the balance of the 500 most common words used in English.

For purposes of building a QRQ speed vocabulary of words, I propose doing the following. This is somewhat similar to what Candler instructed so long ago, except now we can use our PC's, and without even having to type the words into the computer, thanks to the existence of these word lists on the web!

I presume the first list of 15 or so words are the highest frequency words in the language, if not, they must be close! If you are using a Morse computer learning program, such as Codemaster V, Morse Academy, or the Windows mode program NuMorse, all you need do is the following: (See the bottom of these notes for where to get these programs, Morse Adacemy is freeware but a DOS program, NuMorse works via Win95)

{Note: skip the following if you know how to set up files in your computer system, copying stuff from the web, etc.} Highlight the first string of words in Pierpont's Chap 22, the group beginning with the word "a" and ending with "other"; go to the "Edit" pad of your browser

header line, then click copy.

That copies the line of words into your computer note pad. Now, using Windows Explorer, open the file on your drive which contains your code training program. I use NuMorse, so I open that file.

With the file open, at the header line of the Explorer window, click on File, then New. A "drop-down menu appears, select "Text document". A new entry appears over on the right side of the Explorer window at the bottom of your list of Morse trainer program files, it will be titled, highlighted in dark blue, New Text File. Over type with name (or whatever you select) "w1.txt", for word list 1, and hit the Enter key. This creates the empty file within your Morse trainer folder.

Next, double click on this new .txt file, and an empty window will appear with the title w1.txt at the top. You will notice that directly under the new titled file name is another Edit pad. Click on it, and then click on the Paste button: wallah, the list of words you copied from Pierpont's chapter will appear in your new file! Nearly finished now; next, click on the same new .txt file window's File pad, and click on Save. You are finished! Close the windows.

You can check to be sure all is well by double clicking on the new w1.txt file to be sure it comes up with your list of Pierpont's words.

I have now done this, creating seven new .txt files within my NuMorse folder of the C: drive. These contain all of the words Pierpont lists as the most common 100 words.

It is surprising how slow 25 wpm sounds after you work your way in increments of 5 wpm from that speed to, say 40 wpm. Starting at 20 or 25 wpm, listen to each 5 wpm increment all the way up to, say 40 wpm for a few minutes. You will certainly begin to catch a few of the words in Pierpont's first list: that, who, ever, such, etc, even at 35 or 40 wpm. Then drop back to 25, and I'll bet you read all 15 or so words via "head copy" with no trouble at all!

Any of these Morse training programs mentioned will read a .txt file and play it to you in CW! An added feature of NuMorse is that you can specify the file of words be played back to you either in serial or random order, repeatedly! This is very nice for training your ear to hear and learn to comprehend these words at very high speed. This is essentially the beginning of the Candler "Automatic Sound Consciousness" training system done with today's tech-

nology!

You are now ready to take step number 1 of the Candler High Speed Code system. Begin to listen to this list of words at a speed well above what you can now copy by pencil; say 5 to 10 wpm faster. Listen each day, perhaps twice a day, until you are able to copy these words in your mind, not by writing them down. Just listen to them. Then up the speed, and listen until you can catch them at the higher speed. Probably going faster than you can write now, so, if you are a good typist, try copying them down on the keyboard as you hear them, but also try copying being, maybe listening to the next word as you type the first word, etc.

When you can easily recognize the entire sound of a word, not by hearing each letter sent and noted, but the sound of the entire word, at say 40 or 45 wpm with your computer trainer, then go to the next list of words, repeat the loading process, and continue. You will, faster than you might imagine, have built up a good vocabulary of complete CW word sounds. This should greatly enhance your CW skills! Don't become impatient. This could take a few months to get all 500 words at 45 or 50 wpm!! Browse through the balance of Pierpont's book as posted. You will get lots of practice hints and ideas. But now you also have the basis of the high speed Candler training program that produced many amazing telegraphers during the 20's, 30's and into the 40's.

Info on NuMorse may be found at: <http://www.btinternet.com/~tony.lacy/> on CodeMaster V, at: <http://www.sni.net/mthome/cm5.htm> and on Morse Academy, at: <http://www.speroni.com/AH0A.html>. Only NuMorse works in Windows 95. The other two are DOS programs, and Morse Academy is freeware.

Another Reminder to LISTEN First!

The FISTS Century Net generally lasts 1 1/2 to 2 hrs. (2000z-2200z) on Sunday afternoon around 14.058. As one of the NCS I can attest to the fact we have been experiencing QRM problems. Please respect the NCS and Net frequency. The NCS's have enough work to do already without having to deal with unnecessary QRM especially from fellow club members calling CQ FISTS. All are welcome to check in but if you are not checking in, pse move off the net frequency to call CQ. Vy 73 and Good Fist Hunting Brian W8BL

Special Event

The Northern Corridor Radio Group will be activating the special callsign VI6EWT to commemorate the 120th anniversary of the opening of the East-West Telegraph. This line carried all communications between Adelaide and Perth, a distance of some 2700Km.

The club's activity using this callsign will be commenced from the tiny township of Eucla which is located at the border of Western Australia and South Australia. Eucla is 1400Km by road from Perth, Western Australia and is the site of one of the Telegraph Repeater stations placed along the route of the East-West line. We have a team of 15 operators who will travel by charter bus and trailer to the site. (Hope to have some of them sober enough to operate a radio.)

*** Operation from the site will commence 0100 UTC on Saturday 21st March and end 24 hours later on Sunday 22nd March. This period of operation coincides with the Australian Field Day Contest. HF bands 80 - 10m will be used and contacts from anywhere are most welcome.

*** Following this initial Field Day operation, the callsign will be used on all bands and all modes by various DX minded operators in VK6. This period of operation will probably be for about 2 weeks. This may be extended if interest is high and propagation is good.

The QSL card will hopefully include a photo of the ruins of the Eucla Telegraph Station and will be available for all direct QSL's. Buro cards may not be as elaborate. It all depends on numbers and costs. The club is NOT seeking any financial assistance. We would expect postage costs to be covered by those wanting our card. Postage for direct QSL to anywhere in the world is 1 x IRC or 1 x Greenstamp.

QSL Info for all contacts with VI6EWT:

- 1) via Buro is 100% OK.
- 2) Direct to Northern Corridor Radio Group Inc. VK6ANC

PO Box 244,
North Beach.
WA 6920
Australia

Thanks for the space, hope to work you.
73 de Alek VK6APK.
for NCRG Inc.

Ask The FISTS

We have such a wealth of information out there in our FISTS members! If you have a question about ham radio, from Antennas to Z signals, drop me a note and I'll put in the newsletter. Someone out there is bound to have an answer. Rather than put the responses in the News and Views section, I'll make this a regular part of the Keynote each month so it will make it easier for you to find the answers.

QUESTIONS:

I would like Tom, **W1GO**, to supply some sketches of how he did, the indoor antenna for 20 meters (The Keynote, January, 1998). Looks like something that I might be interested in.

Also, I'm still trying to figure out what a typical QSO is like on the Slow Traffic Net directed by Pete, Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 9:00 p.m. I've checked in a couple of times and wasn't sure I did it right. Pete is very patient. He deserves a BIG THANK YOU!!! Ed (**KE4KKR**)

Pete is going to cover that topic in an upcoming issue, Ed.

I am now a RV full timer. We sold our house in Aug. of this year and are now living in a 35" Snowbird 5th wheel trailer, so home is where I park. This winter it is the warm gulfcoast near Corpus Christi, and this summer it will be in cool Colorado.

RVing brings new challenges and problems for amateur radio. You don't have room for a bunch of gear any more, and no room for long dipole antennas. Seems I solve one and another comes along.

I now have a 2mtr FM in the truck, and a used Yaesu 767gxII (HF,6mtr,2mtr 70cmtr) in the RV. I use a diamond tribander vertical for the VHF/UHF bands but have not had any luck finding an adequate HF multi band antenna. Tried Hustler resonators which I used on my old aluminum clad trailer but my new one is fiberglass so no ground plane, then a five band hustler vertical which needs a very good ground or radials. Worked OK on a couple of bands but others were high swr and I didn't have room for radials. I have ordered the Outbacker Outreach with the Alpha Delta Outpost Tripod, hope this solves my problems. I would like to hear from other FISTS members and how they have solved some of the problems related to living in an RV and being on the move several times during the year. Dale **KC5OBI** #2929

I have to agree with Alan, **N6RNP**, that cw operation has gotten sloppy in recent years. However, I'm unable to find a source that would stand as a universal standard-of-reference. In the station operation section of some older "Handbooks", there are different definitions of "R" e.g., My 1968 and 1976 issues disagree. The 1988 issue describes it as Alan indicated; ...received correctly and in full. Abbreviations are consistent in the earlier call books. They are not included in the 1988 version. My 1995 version doesn't include anything about station operation. I suppose you have to buy another book such as "The ARRL Operating Manual." I haven't been active for several years and things do change. I'm going to find out what the current ARRL procedures are and use them; my small contribution to being consistent. 72/73 Chuck, **W5USJ**

ANSWERS

Atenna Restrictions

Last month, I mentioned that Ken **W8ROG** and Irene **WO8E** had moved to a condo and were interested in hearing about your success with limited space antennas. Here's what Steve **N7IF**, # 3398 wrote:

A little about me: After QRT for 30 years I got my General back in March, 1997, upgraded to Advanced in July, 1997 and finally upgraded to Extra in August, 1997. I operate almost exclusively on CW. I run 100 w to a random wire antenna nailed to the eaves of my house. It is like that because of antenna restrictions in my neighborhood. Even though my antenna is somewhat restricted I have just finished working all states and have worked 40 countries. People should take some encouragement from that!

Also, Stan Reas and Club are doing FB on the Buro.

Hams Band Together ... or You never know who's listening!

I am forwarding this story with permission of the person who sent it to me. As it is still an active situation, I have edited any reference to the state or any persons involved, including the sender. Thought FISTS may find this a great example of the "banding" of hams. 73 Bill VE5HQ (*I edited it a bit for space - Nancy*)

I have been listening to a group of hams on 80 meters for about six months. One of the hams had a partnership with a woman who owned a ranch north of me. They lived together as man and wife but never officially got married. They formed a cattle company but never officially documented it. The woman had a heart attack and had to be placed in a nursing home. Her daughter was getting real nasty, trying to force the guy off the property on the grounds that he was just an employee and had no rights to anything.

The court hearing was today. I had thought about going but since my license does not let me operate on that part of 80 meters I thought I was being foolish. About two hours before the hearing, my intuition began to yell at me so I went over to the court house. I introduced myself to a small group of people on the steps. Two defense lawyers were there, they asked me how I was involved. I told them my story and that I was willing to testify regarding my impression of the mans ability to manage a ranch just from what I had heard over the air. About that time four more hams showed up, each one told their story about why they were there. By that time one of the lawyers was scribbling notes on a pad as fast as he could write - ended up with about 8 hams there to assist. We all sat together in the court room. The daughter and her lawyer came, the lawyers began a private conference - the prosecuting lawyer kept looking at the group of potential witnesses. Suddenly the lawyers, the daughter, and the man left the room for an hour. When they came back they told the judge they had reached an agreeable compromise.

The daughter admitted that the man had right to 50 per cent of the assets of the ranch and that he could not be forced off the property. It was basically a total victory for him. Afterwards the defense lawyer took us aside and said that our show of strength was the deciding factor. The prosecuting lawyers were totally intimidated by the number of potential witnesses and told the daughter to settle or lose everything she was after. We all really felt great - I am looking forward to listening tomorrow morning to see what everyone has to say on the air. Hams are special people!!!

SMALL WORLD!

In reference to A Classic Funny submitted by Cheryl KBORQN and Phil AB2AU. (See #11 KNote) The letter to the Editor of QST by Ward Buhrman W4QT was vintage Ward. He was a personal friend of mine and it sure brought back many pleasant memories. Ward was an electrical engineer with the Tennessee Valley Authority and excelled in any of his many undertakings. I first met him in 1953. He was truly the perfect Southern gentleman with a marvelous sense of humor. I had accompanied my Uncle WA4EWZ to the Buhrman residence. My Uncle was taking his novice exam which was being administered by Ward. (My Uncle passed and received the call W4HOL).

Ward had a dream shack with the latest Collins receiver and transmitter which drove a beautiful home brew KW in a six-foot rack with all sorts of meters and lamps. His call sign lit up when he keyed his transmitter. WOW! Was this ever impressive to a young teenager? Ward was known for his beautiful craftsmanship and built these wonderful kW amplifiers for hams all over the South. The wiring was laid out in beautiful symmetry and neatly hand laced with waxed cable lacing. Each corner was meticulously placed with ninety degree turns and the filament wires were twisted together to reduce AC hum. He was a wonderful cw operator and DXer. He could make his Vibroplex Presentation sing. It was poetry to hear him operate cw. This introduction to Ham Radio hooked me forever.

He was also an accomplished photographer. One of his photos became quite famous and appeared in several magazines across the nation. This was a black and white photo looking up a spiral staircase which ascended several stories.

Ward retired in the early 60's. He had one son who preceded him in death. His wife died several years after Ward passed on, and this was the last of the Buhrman family. The best I can remember, he was in his seventies when he died. My Uncle in eighty-eight and I think they were very close to the same age.

Thanks to Cheryl and Phil and to you, Nancy for printing the article. You stirred warm memories of an old friend. Willard, W4HZD, #2673

When You've Worked A FISTS,
You've Worked A Friend

Traffic Traing Net Help

Pat WB5NKD and Arley WB5NKC are extremely active traffic handlers, if you've joined FISTS in the last year or so, you probably received a Welcome to FISTS Club traffic message from them.

They write: Here in the Oklahoma training net, we obtained 166 training lessons from the Indiana slow speed net, and the Alabama training net. They are divided up into 4 different sections. 1. basic 2. advanced 3. liaison and 4 ncs. We have them available on email, one page, per message. They would have to be modified for the various states, taking the word Oklahoma out, and putting in the state name where the new net manager/ ncs would be.

This may be the answer to helping the cw operator, and the cw traffic nets, would be to get more slow speed cw nets. That way, there would not be a state that did not have a slow speed net of their own.

If anyone needs help, please contact me at wb5nkc@juno.com I would be glad to send the 'lessons' to them. It would be no trouble at all. I am glad to help anyone learn how to handle cw traffic.

73 and 88 Arley and Pat

A New FISTS Affiliated Club

1331 East Taylor Street
Vista, CA 92084-3307

Dear FISTS members and others,

In an effort to get more activity on the CW portion of the HF bands and to encourage more hams in San Diego County to join FISTS I have recently formed and registered the VISTA VALLEY FISTS CW CLUB. I would like to invite you all to participate in this effort with me by accepting a membership in this new club.

As it currently stands the plan is to have a very loose organization that is active on the air as often as possible, encourages the use of the code as well as FISTS membership, and also provides assistance by helping anyone who is really interested in CW.

There are no dues or fees proposed nor should any be needed in the future. There will not be a monthly newsletter but I will act as the clearing house for questions or skeds with new hams as necessary.

I have begun the renaming process of an existing club called Gopher Canyon Contest Club (KF6MWX). The name modification has been sent to the FCC. I have applied, and paid for, a Vanity call sign for this club. The new call is K6FFF and

was issued on February 6, 1998.

This will be the first FISTS CLUB in San Diego County and the first to be registered in California. This surprises me to some extent, given the interest in FISTS. The existence of a registered Club call with FISTS will allow any member of the club to QSO with other FISTS members and give them three points instead of the normal one point per contact toward any of the FISTS awards.

Personally, I spend a considerable amount of time as an elmer on the air with newbie brass pounders. I also occasionally teach CW as a volunteer at the local school for the blind here in Vista, CA (when I can find anyone interested in learning the code)

During the past 15 months I have managed to get approximately a dozen Technicians and Tech Plus licensees up to, or approaching, Extra Class tickets. I have never met one of them face to face but we have become good friends via Email. Many are now FIST

One of the recent Extra Class licensees (Jeff Maier, AB7WJ) also a FISTS member, has started a radio club at his daughter's elementary school and has about 50 kids learning the code. He personally bought and paid for a new Kenwood TS850S/AT for their use.

Another recently registered FISTS club is called the Northwest FISTS Club and is operated under the auspices of another new Extra Class licensee (Casey Bahr, KS7J) It is the first FISTS Club in the State of Oregon and has already begun to attract new members. There is no magic to all this stuff. It only needs someone to step up to the plate and just do it; for now that someone in San Diego County is me.

It may be possible that some of you do not have an active station at the moment and are unable to get on the air. My station is fairly simple at present but is being developed as time and funds allow.

Please let me hear from you on this issue one way or the other. Your suggestions are welcome as is your valuable assistance in getting this project off the ground.

My Email Address is:
<KS6Z@sprynet.com>

My telephone number: 760/941-5288.

Thank you for your continued interest in FISTS, and hopefully, your participation with me in the VISTA VALLEY FISTS CW CLUB.

73, Dan Keefe, KS6Z
The club has been issued FISTS #4444.

Occasionally I am asked how I keep up my enthusiasm promoting FISTS, writing the KeyNote, etc. I couldn't do it without the reliable assistance of the dedicated workers who are listed on the How Do I...page, as well as many others who work behind the scenes. But, I admit it is sometimes hard to stay focused when I get a mean letter from someone nitpicking something or a crank phone call (which is why my phone number is no longer listed in the newsletter, in case you were wondering).

That's why I really appreciate it when you take the time to drop me a note saying how much you enjoy FISTS and the newsletter, offer suggestions for improvement and just write to say hello. It puts me right back on track and keeps my momentum going! I received a special letter that really made my day and I wanted to share it with you. Thanks Lee KC7QOP!

Why join the FISTS CW club? I have a number of reasons for belonging to FISTS, and I'll attempt to explain why I believe it's a good idea to join. The selling points of the club are, in my opinion:

- FISTS encourages new hams & those new to CW.
- A friendly attitude is emphasized.
- FISTS supports courtesy & good operating practice.
- The newsletter is great. It gives us common ground.

FISTS makes it a point to encourage new hams to get involved with CW. The club encourages members to slow their CW speed to match the speed of the other operator, and to make an extra effort to initiate slow speed contacts with operators who are obvious newcomers. I can still recall how relieved I was, when I first got on the air, to find that there were operators willing to slow down for me and tolerate my obvious lack of knowledge.

It's also nice for hams who have been away from CW for a long time to find some friendly, courteous activity when they return. In the short time I've been on the air, I have encountered several hams who were inactive or migrated to other modes, only to come back to CW years later. A common theme is the fact CW is a "friendly" mode, and offers a nice contrast to other modes where a few hams consider themselves the "owners" of a frequency, or make uncomplimentary remarks about others. The FISTS mottos are, "Accuracy transcends speed" and "Courtesy at all times."

Although FISTS promotes the code, it is not a competitive organization. There is no prize for sending the fastest code or making the most contacts in a given time. Most FISTS QSOs seem to occur in the 10 to

15 word per minute range. Generally, FISTS members tell each other more than the usual name-QTH-RST exchange. A typical QSO will go on for 10 or 15 minutes and include information about age, family members, pets, hobbies and interests, real world jobs, and so on. Often, the operators discover that they have common interests, mutual friends, similar jobs, etc. and carry on an extended conversation.

For those who need a little competition, there is a Century award for contacting 100 other FISTS members. With membership growing quickly, the Century should be easy. I'm about 20% there and I don't seriously try to pile up FISTS contacts. A more difficult award is the FISTS Century QRP and I think only one person has one so far. The toughest award will be the FISTS Worked All States, which only recently became possible. It will be interesting to see who's the first to claim FISTS-WAS. Not me, for sure.

By the way, FISTS members send QSL cards at close to a 100 percent rate. There is a special FISTS QSL bureau to handle cards to and from members.

When the FCC proposes rule changes or frequency allocations that would impinge upon amateurs, FISTS may be useful in advocating our interests. With membership approaching 4,600 hams, the popularity of the club suggests that CW is still a viable mode with significant interest. Could the club have an impact on proposals to relax the code requirement or relinquish portions of the CW sub-bands to voice modes? I hesitate to speculate, but advocacy seems a natural function as the FISTS organization gets larger. At the very least, FISTS members help keep each other aware of issues that affect us.

The monthly newsletter is called the *Keynote*, put together by Nancy Kott WZ8C. FISTS is a very chatty group and the newsletter reflects this. A lot of members write in with news, opinions, gossip, information, ideas, historical perspective, and so on. There are generally 8 or 10 pages of North American news, along with 3 or 4 pages of material from England, the home of Geo Longden G3ZQS, founder of the club. The *Keynote* ran to a staggering 40 pages a couple months ago, and it must be a Herculean task for Nancy. I look forward to getting my *Keynote* as much as I do *QST* or *73*.

The most meaningful benefit of FISTS membership is belonging to an organization that brings together persons who are interested in the code and preserving CW operation. I think the code is fun, somewhat nostalgic, and represents "real" ham radio be-

cause it's a special skill that differentiates us from Internet subscribers. Not all FISTS are dedicated code-heads, and many enjoy other modes as well as CW, but we all believe that the code was important to the development of ham radio, and continues to be a significant, perhaps even necessary, part of amateur radio today.

CW requires effort, without being impossible. Operators who learn and use CW are not "better" hams than those who work other modes or have other interests, but there is something about CW that demonstrates a certain degree of discipline or perseverance. (I guess some would call us stubborn or backward.) Operating CW at slow speed in poor conditions also requires patience and tolerance, attributes we could stand to promote among all amateurs. FISTS brings us together around a common interest, thereby making ham radio more interesting and more fun.

I use modes other than CW. It's fun to yak-yak on the local 2 meter repeater, and many of us know each other personally, so it's different than talking code on HF, where we can't hear voices and know relatively little about each other. Soon, I'll be set up to operate packet radio, both HF and VHF, mainly for its value in emergencies and disasters. I think most FISTS members use other modes, although a few do operate 100% CW and maintain a fierce loyalty to the code.

A final reason to join FISTS is because it's cheap! Just 15 bucks a year gets you into this interesting club. Just as CW is the least expensive ham radio mode, FISTS is the least expensive ham radio club.

73 Lee Shissler KC7QOP

I cannot believe I lost the name of the FISTS who wrote this, so if you recognize it, pse send me a note and I'll be sure to credit it you with it next issue! It's a song he wrote to the tune of "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down" by Credence Clearwater Revival:

They Keep Running Old Morse Down

Steven Joe is my name
and I recovered from the pain
Of all I had to absorb
When I wanted to become a ham.

In the winter of seventy nine,
with Elmer's help I got through it just fine.
I took the test and if I passed or I failed,
Elmer knew but legally he could not tell.

Today they keep running old Morse down
Because they claim it's outdated.
Today they keep running old Morse down
They're so miseducated they cry,
"WAAAAAH! WAH! WAH! WAH! WAH!
**I DON'T WANT LEARN MORSE
NO WAY! NO HOW!"**

Two months later, on a Saturday,
The mailman called to me,
"Look! Here's a letter for you
And it's from the FCC!"
I sweated a moment,
Then I filled up with pride
When I found my Novice ticket inside.
HF only! The narrowest mode!
No VHF, no DATA, and no phone.

Today they keep running old Morse down
Because they claim it's outdated.
Today they keep running old Morse down
They're so miseducated they cry,
"WAAAAAH! WAH! WAH! WAH! WAH!
**I DON'T WANT LEARN MORSE
NO WAY! NO HOW!"**

Like my Elmer before me
I'm now Extra Class.
And just as Elmer taught me
I help newcomers pass.
And I welcome nocoders to VHF,
But we must conserve
The spectrum that's left!
I swear by the license above my desk,
HF hams need the code
If our service is to stay its best!

Today they keep running old Morse down
Because they claim it's outdated.
Today they keep running old Morse down
They're so miseducated they cry,
"WAAAAAH! WAH! WAH! WAH! WAH!
**I DON'T WANT LEARN MORSE
NO WAY! NO HOW!"**

Well, that's it for this issue FISTS! I have a ton of more stuff but we're out of room. Thanks for your contributions, I can't write the KeyNote without you!
73 88 de Nancy WZ8C

DX KeyNote

DX NETS

Sunday QRS 0900 (loc) 3.575 2E0AJS
 US 0100Z on 14058
 Tues: GC0IPX/P 1930 ON 3.558 (+/-)
 Thurs: QRS 1900 (loc) on 3575. 2E0AJS
 DX 14/21/28.058 on the hour for 15mins
 Pse keep watch all Novice allocations
 UK Net Controls use GX0IPX/P

OFFICES

QSL Manager: G0FRL. Bob Lowe
 PO Box 190. BOLTON. BL1 4UL.
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 5450 Diehl Rd., METAMORA, MI48455
 PRO: G4YLB. J.A. Welsh
 3 Minster Cresc, DARWEN, BB3 3PY
 CONTEST MANAGER: GM4BAE
 Northbrae, Brookfield Cresc, STRANRAER, DG9
 0HY
 Sec: E. (Geo) Longden, G3ZQS. 119 Cemetery Rd.,
 DARWEN, BB3 2LZ, England. 01254-703948

E-Mail: fist1@compuserve.com

GREETINGS

It's all over with. Christmas has been and gone. The kids have tired of that brand new electronic intergalactic space module you bought and, like all kids; are having more fun with the packing case that it arrived in than with the toy itself. The last lager lout has despaired of calling for his friend Hughie at 0001 on 1 Jan and is now satisfied that he has not got stuck in the "S" bend. Am I relieved? you bet.

Got the usual stack of cards from members. Some of them very much appealed to my warped sense of humour particularly that from Dave, G3PEN who was so deeply touched by the exploding socket episode that he taped a Christmas tree constructed of ten 13-amp fuses to his card. The significance of this may well have been lost on Ivy but it took me many minutes to recover from a bout of rib-shaking giggles. To all of those who sent a card, my sincere thanks and I trust that my failure to reciprocate will be understood.

Little later than I intended to be this month although I normally wait until I get the LS ladder report from Gerry so I guess not too far adrift. However, the very first week in 1998 found me with a thumping great dose of flu and a full week was spent without the computer being brought to life apart from the e-mail. By the time you get this letter, the event will have passed and for what it is worth, it will have been recorded that G3ZQS has been around for 70 years. Get a nice birthday present from the Government though because the concession of invalidity status is now removed and I am expected to pay income tax on my pension. The DVLC also warns that I must re-apply annually for my driving licence. They can get knotted. With today's road conditions, I would have thought that a small reward would be in order. Hi.

I was somewhat annoyed at the "spitch" that was screwing up a QSO on 40m so slipped into SSB mode and went in search of the fool. There he was on 7.013 calling "QCQ this is raydo shtaaan @@@@ shunding by" Had he been signing mobile, I am sure that half the amateurs on the band would have been bombarding the police with clues to his whereabouts. It takes all sorts I guess. Hi.

I feel for those unfortunates who suffered the recent run of gales. They reached over 100mph I am told on both extremities of the UK but, being of a Westerly source, we were sheltered from the worst of them by the moor lands rising high above. Still it managed to rob the ivy of its hold on the gable and a large chunk has ended up draped across the BT line and although I managed to flip the bulk of the wet green weight clear by the use of an extended brush affair for cleaning the windows, I'd better someone up there pdq before the darned line parts. Hi. I get kind of worried about the winds when they are Easterly though even then, a recently constructed estate of 'little boxes' takes most of the sting out of these. The blackest cloud can come bearing blessings.

LAST SUNDAY LADDER

Gerry reports that the grand children kept him busy over the holiday period. he's not too proud to learn from them of course but it must be a bit galling when the wee ones are more computer literate than yourself. Hi.

| Call | Mbr | Total | No | Mbrs |
|--------|-------|-------|----|------|
| Prev | Total | | | |
| G4LHI | 38 | 26 | 8 | 108 |
| G0MRH | | 32 | 0 | 35 |
| 67 | | | | |
| PA3AFF | | 14 | 1 | 36 |
| 51 | | | | |
| G4PTE | 20 | 3 | 18 | 41 |
| G4RBE | 16 | 0 | 12 | 28 |
| G0VCY | | 8 | 0 | 10 |
| 18 | | | | |
| G0WLC | | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| G0VYR | | 6 | 0 | 6 |

As you will see, Norman G0VYR has tacked himself on the end of the list and far from being too late, anything can happen before the final reckoning.

Gerry reminds those of you who do not enter that this is not a contest in the true sense but a pleasant QSO type activity.

WINTER SK WEEK

Gerry has set the date for this event at Sunday, 1 March 1998 from 0001 utc. It terminates at 2359 on the following Saturday.

QSO in following format:

RST, Name, QTH, Membership No/Day No
e.g. Gerry Stranraer 683/05 (Day 1 is Sunday therefore /05 is Thursday) this way the problem of day/day duplication is avoided permitting points for the same station on different days.

1 point per contact, no claims allowed for non members. Logs to be received by the Contest Manager by the third Saturday after the day of the event. The QSOs need not be of the Rubber Stamp variety indeed we encourage you to indulge in rag-chewing during this period since it lasts for a whole week.

On this occasion, we do not require your nominations for FIST of the year. Simply get on the bands and have fun.

In view of the disproportionate density of FISTS members between Europe and the US, I have advised Nancy and trust that she will be organising her own version of the event.

Certificates for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places with 12 months update of membership to the winner.

Your logs to Gerry, GM4BAE, Northbrae, Brookfield Cresc, STRANRAER, Scotland, DG9 OHY to arrive before the 3rd. Saturday.

Tom, G3KEF, supplies an update on the information I was unable to include earlier. Tom and Alan (G3RSP) have not copied any of the stations previously noted apart from short calls so perhaps they cannot raise the other end. Looks like they have shifted QRG which is a blessing. Another mailbox recently appeared - DL8FX on 14059.4 with a badly suppressed carrier on 14058. This 'Gentleman' can jam two QSOs at once. Guess his dial reads 14058.0 on USB.

DL8FX was read working DL1HBV/W2/MM several times and incredibly, DL1HBV also has a very badly suppressed carrier on 14058. This pair have often been found blatantly jamming CW QSOs. Whilst some Pactor has been heard on 14057.78 and 14058.77, these are relatively short bursts and looks like one of the mailboxes being unsuccessfully selected, further evidence that the mailboxes have gone.

There are the odd 'accidents' where someone inadvertently dials up a wrong frequency but these, Tom suggests, can be excused.

He has received a reply from the RSGB re. data comms within the cw allocation. and is assured that 14.000 to 14070 is recognised as CW ONLY. *"I have checked with the Chairman of our IARU committee and he confirms that the UK band plan complies with the IARU band plan i.e. up to 14.070 is exclusive cw and that the band plan we publish is correct"*. The 1997 ARRL Handbook recognises 14060 as the QRP calling frequency and places data comms from 14070 to 14095. It could be as Tom suggests that there is widespread ignorance of the band plans by some data ops and a lot of mis-information regarding where Data Comms should be operating.

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

G0VRW. Paul has been suffering from RSI in both hands and last year it became near crippling so he asked me to cancel his membership. However, the long rest from Morse, typing, piano playing, darts and tiddley winks has worked wonders and he is now back on air with short sessions and an Samson el-keyer.

G3NNK. Alf is another member with movement problems with rheumatism of the shoulder affecting his hands which means a 'glass arm' quite quickly in a session but he's working on it. A far cry from his service days when 25 to 30 wpm was considered a norm. You and me both Alf. **F5JUD.** Sorry Al.. Don't know how I managed to skrew things up like that. A

broken hand has not been helping his activity. **GM4BAE**. Jerry was in dry dock for a few days to have his pump checked out. Came away with a relatively clean bill of health (thes medical types never commit themselves to saying there's nil wrong Jerry) and mentions a discussion at the local radio club about Admiralty HF stations handling British Merchant trafficand a QSP service to the UK. Read reams of the stuff mate and some of it was quite enlightening but am sure that the service was much appreciated as you suggest. **M0BDD**. Derrick has a fine canine collection of three bitches one of whom is named 'Tammy' and is a crossbred labrador. The t'other two are (like my own Tammy) Heinz 57 varieties. Was delighted to receive a card from KA1OX, the result of a happy meeting via his W3DZZ and Waynes beam and t'would seem that the trapped dipole has been serving him often with transatlantic traffic. At the time of writing, Derrick has been supplying cat food to what would appear to be an orphaned baby hedghog. A box full of straw has been placed adjacent to its' current home below the garden shed in the hope that the creature would take the hint and he could transfer it to the Greenhouse before the weather went against it. **G0TMZ**. Our Norman lives in a village complex of 20 houses called Downton which prompts US contacts to query "Downtown where???".

UK SHORE STNS QRT ON 500KHz

As most of you already know, GB ceased its watch on the 500 KHz international (CW) distress frequency at midnight 31st December 1997.

I patched a cassette recorder into my FT900 tuned to 500 kHz and have just transcribed the following.....
(at 2349 UTC Portpatrick Radio GPK was first to sign off)

CQ CQ de GPK GPK. At 31.2359 UTC Portpatrick Radio/GPK will end the H24H 500kHz distress watch after 76 years. In 1844 QTC nr 1 fm Samuel Morse was <What hath God wrought?>. All R/Os now ken the answer to this. NW 73 73 / Slainte to all R/Os, past and present - fare well. AR de GPK GPK VA
(next was Wick Radio/GKR)

CQ CQ CQ de GKR GKR GKR. After almost 90 years serving seafarers this is the final w/t broadcast from Wick Radio. For the few of us who are left it is with feelings of pride and nostalgia we remember friends and colleagues at sea and ashore and the service which was rendered particularly to the then mighty distant water fishing fleet. Technology however marches on and as we find ourselves and our

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service consigned if not to the museum then certainly to the pages of history. All that remains..... < at this point a strong TFC broadcast from IAR (!) rendered copy impossible>best wishes for 1998 and 73s to any who are left on the sea with the ability to read this.....<at this point GLD transmitted an acknowledgement to GKR before the latter had finished sending - I think he was trying to hurry things along!>
(next from Cullercoats/GCC)

CQ CQ CQ de GCC GCC GCC. Here is the last w/t transmission from GCC. A fond farewell from Geordy land sent with a sad and shaking hand. For many years with signs we spoke and now it all goes up in smoke. So thanks and all the very best as GCC is laid to rest.
De GCC/GND 010000Z AR AR BB de GND
(Finally, at approx 0017 UTC)

GLD de GCC. Over to you and best wishes to u and all listeners AR VA
de GLD R Mni tks. **CQ CQ de GLD GLD.** This is the final w/t transmission from Lands End Radio. Since 1901 GLD has listened continuously on 500 kHz and is proud to have assisted many ships in distress both in peace time and in war. But now the time has come - ours is not to reason why - the satellites are calling, our morse transmitters die. Marconi if you can hear us we salute you.

de GLD 31/12/97 2359z AR AR de GLD

My tape ran out at about 0030z when GLD was still acknowledging calls from other watchkeepers. Call-sign logged included EAC, EAS EJK, EJM, IAR, OST, OXZ, SAA, SPA, SPE and VCM.

Thus another era comes to an end. The morse was all hand sent and frequently showed the emotion of the occasion.

Vy 73 and HNY to all, Chris G3TUX

CENTURY AWARD HOLDERS

Here is a current comma delimited list. This will be updated periodically or updates may be obtained from HQ.

AA0KJ, AA0WZ, AA1KF, AA2SM, AA3LM, AA5EA, AA8PJ, AA9KH, AA9KH, AB2AU, AB5EQ, AC4DT, AC4NW, AC4XT, AC4ZH, AC5BG, AC5JH, AC6QO, AC6TO, AD4OS, AE2L, AE4AZ, AE4JG, AE4P, AE4QS, AF9H, AI9L, F5JUD, G0CLA, G0FIP, G0FOD, G0FRL, G0FVS, G0FYP, G0GGU, G0GZN, G0HGA, G0IJE, G0ILN, G0JWB, G0LJB, G0MGD, G0MRH, G0MWU, G0NKO, G0ONS, G0RGP, G0SWU, G0SZE, G0TBD, G0TCF, G0TGU, G0TUE, G0UEE, G0UKX, G0UQF, G0VQA, G0WAS, G3ASG, G3GXQ, G3KEF,

G3KFG, G3LPS, G3VQO, G3YLL, G4BNU, G4EIB, G4JRE, G4LHI, G4OOS, G4RBE, G4WBN, G4ZIB, G5LP, GIOPCU, GM4BAE, GW0FJN, GW0SGG, GW0UHJ, GW3VLU, GW4PXQ, K2ACW, K2SWZ, K2VT, K3AS, K3CJQ, K3WWP, K4MF, K4PTU, K4UK, K4WZ, K4YKI, K5DMC, K6DF, K7WF, K7ZR, K7ZYV, K8FN, K8LJG, K8VGL, KA1SVX, KA2KDJ, KA3UXU, KA4IFF, KA8OQF, KA8ZDL, KB2SWI, KB2UZY, KB4OPV, KB8KRD, KB8OOM, KB8ZVD, KC4LHZ, KC5GXC, KC5NRB, KC5VJU, KC7YWD, KC8BSC, KD1XA, KD7ABK, KE1AF, KE1AF, KE3NV, KF2G, KF6DCU, KF6DCU, KG8DA, KG9HE, KJ7OX, KQ4VH, KQ6ES, KS4UV, KT4QD, LA1IE, LY3BY, LZ1JZ, M0AVW, N0ZNC, N1DNM, N1PVP, N1VWD, N1WL, N1YLA, N2PLE, N2SLB, N2ZHF, N3NY, N3PM, N3RSD, N4OT, N4VEF, N4ZMP, N4ZZZ, N5DCF, N5VC, N5VC, N7CFA, N7HOK, N8EQA, N8FU, N8NLE, N8UJZ, N8WPX, NA8G, NB2T, NP2GP, NP4FW, NS2G, NS2H, NW3N, OZ7KDJ, PA3AFF, PA3BJD, SM4ASI, SP6JOE, UU0JN, VA3JEG, VA3JJ, VA3JPM, VA3KEW, VE1BBW, VE1ZAC, VE3FMC, VE3MIQ, VE5RD, VY2RB, W3ERU, W3JIM, W3RMD, W4IUI, W4JCH, W4MA, W4OGZ, W5HQL, W6DDB, W6DDB, W6JEP, W7BWI, W7GB, W8BL, W8LFJ, W9LUT, WA0FAX, WA0FGV, WA1GAG, WA2BQI, WA3WEE, WA4KQL, WA6RND, WA7YYY, WB2EXI, WB2FXK, WB2HEK, WB2UEC, WD6CKT, WD80CV, WD8OCV, WN4BOT, WO8E, WP4LNY

I am sure you will appreciate that columnising this list would cost the best part of a full page but you will find that they are in alpha-numerical order reading L/R from the top.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following who have joined us since your last update:

| | | |
|------|--------|--------|
| 3740 | 2W0ALZ | Dave |
| 3741 | SP9LI | Andy |
| 3742 | M0ASN | John |
| 3743 | G3OKA | John |
| 3744 | G4VUX | Graham |
| 3745 | M0BLO | Peter |
| 3746 | G4JNA | Rob |
| 3747 | G0VRR | Fil |
| 3748 | EA5AUC | Carlos |
| 3749 | GI3MUS | Bill |
| 3750 | PA3FLV | Frank |
| 3751 | G0OGU | Mick |
| 3752 | G0VEI | Baz |
| 3753 | G3WMP | Norm |
| 3754 | EI3IM | Paul |
| 3755 | OH8US | Masa |
| 3756 | G3SCD | David |
| 3757 | EI5GB | Martin |

QSL BUREAU

I thought we had explained the workings of this to all members on joining but I am getting the odd query so, for clarity and not for the NA Chapter (they are obliged to run a different system) the requirements are simple. Send your batches of QSL cards to Bob, GOFRL (address on the banner) and print the recipient clearly on the obverse top left hand corner. To conserve postal costs, I recommend that you store your cards and post them all at once to arrive before the 3rd week in the month.

The smooth running of the bureau depends of course on sorting and it is important that you should endeavour to sort the cards in Prefix/Suffix order to avoid delays in forwarding.

No SAE is required. Cards directed to you are forwarded free of charge with the news letter.

Cards for targets other than FISTS members are not acceptable but if the target is known to subscribe to any of the service bureaux (RNARS, RSARS etc. also G-QRP), you may indicate this (again printing clearly) on the top right hand obverse corner, via RSARS etc). Bob will endeavour to despatch all such cards to the appropriate bureaux when placing the news letters in the post.

The lad is doing a superb job so it is up to you to do all you can to help.

ODDS 'N ENDS

CW METER?

Our Eric, G3LPS tells me he has been having trouble with emissions from a gas fire. Three fruitless visits by workmen was followed up by attention from an expert in the field who left a CO detector. Eric was tickled to discover that when activated, it calls out "CO" in MORSE.

UFT

From my friends in UFT (Union Francaise des Telegraphistes), many thanks for your kind wishes for 1998.

GOLD

Congratulations to AC6TO, KA4IFF and KB8ZVD. All recently in receipt of their "Gold" awards. Now we are soon gonna have to be thinking about a diamond which leaves us with a lot of leeway with ruby, emerald etc.

THOSE TELEPHONE ADDS

Don't you ever get niggled by those telephone calls from Kitchen installation or double glazing companies. Whenever the phone rings and a charming YL voice inquires "Mr. Longden?" or - more usually -

"Mr. Langden?", I am immediately on my guard and respond "Yes Sir". First shot just above the water-line.

My name is Melissa from Super Kitchens (odd, it is never Agnes, Doris etc.) and we have a special offer for 1998.

I've got a kitchen.. I'm sitting in it right now. (second shot - how many houses do you know that do not have a kitchen?). There is usually a pause here and they bring out the big guns.

We also do windows.

I've got some windows.
and doors.

I've got a door as well.

Ah but what sort of a door?

Well it's sort of rectangular and made of wood.

They have been known to continue beyond this point but one thing is for sure, when they do hang up, they will be drawing a blue line through my name and phone number.

THE END OF HAM RADIO!

A telephone call from Angie, G0HGA, convinced me that the end is approaching if things carry on in this manner. She was harking to a couple of DL stations who were slagging not only herself but "G" stations in general. The amateur service is not a political forum and should surely never be used as a soap box for venting personal grudges. I have had reports of comments of this nature being uttered on phone but when it starts to creep into CW it is surely approaching the limit.

THE MISSING DITS

He was persistently sending a "S" where it should have been a "H" and his long breaks comprised "6T" rather than "BT". Most disconcerting. Perhaps sensing my growing impatience, he explained that he was having problems with his paddles and that when he released the dot paddle in the appropriate place, the keyer failed to complete the final dot. It was for this reason that he was exaggerating the dots on his long break though he could not consciously apply the same technique to normal text. What sort of keyer was he using I enquired. He gave me the name of a popular brand and I then asked if there were facilities for dot/dash stores. Pause while he consulted the manual. Yei tsere wai. Had he reset the keyer or recently made any changes to the configuration? A further pause and back came perfectly normal CW "Wow. It is now working perfectly" and why hadn't he thought of that himself? He must have removed the power and the

designer had fixed things so that on start up, the instrument defaulted to no dot or dash store which he had clearly been used to. Sometimes the most obvious clues escape us and we dive into the sea of alternative remedies but seemingly he had not bothered to read the destructions which came with the keyer but had impatiently jumped in and started using it. He was not on his own though. If you are going to compile a database of those who do not have the patience to read up on their new toy before they start to use it then put me at the top of the list. Hi.

CALL CHANGE

Arthur, G1GJR has passed his test and is now recognised as M0BLM. Congrats.

STEREO CW RECEPTION

I see the question has again been raised in RadComm. It must be over 30 years since I first constructed the filter designed by my good friend Doug Chalmers (G6CJ) and enjoyed its benefits for a long time before eventually passing it on to a SWL. Doubtless there have been variations on a theme in the intervening period though I confess that I have not kept touch but I now see that K6STI has surfaced with v2.0 of the software for his DSP Blaster. T'would seem that this is a pretty sophisticated package permitting the user to listen to the "I" channel for monophonic SNR enhancement or the "Q" channel to check the signal coherence and phase lock quality or the incoherent bandpass filter output to obtain slow roll-off noise shaping without having to tune for phase lock. Best of all of course, you can use stereo when the resultant signal appears centred in your head while the noise becomes diffuse, non-localised and non-directional. I am quoting here from Technical Topics of course and half of this stuff is going straight over my head not being too technical. The beautiful part of Doug's gadget was that with a moderately narrow filter, you could virtually "see" signals and noise spread out in space and concentrate on just one though the normal mode of operation was to centre the signal of interest. A later version it would seem appeared in 1975 (I must have missed this one) which, like Doug's offering was analogue but the latest offering is via Digital Signal Processing and whilst it is no doubt superior, it also demands some pretty sophisticated kit like a 486PC (or better) with maths co-processor, VGA monitor and a minimum of a Creative Labs 16-bit sound card and the usual rodent. Seems to me that under these circumstances, you would end up devoting a highly complex piece of hardware to the job of processing

incoming CW signals unless the O/S was up to the job of multi-tasking.

I'm probably asking too much but ideally, I would like to see a narrow band filter from the rig digitally expanded (audio-wise) and effectively giving us the ability to spread this so that it feels like a broader (say 1K) filter. Don't think this is possible but you can never tell what these bright sparks come up with nowadays. Hi. Don't hold your breath. Think you will have to wait a few years for the ultimate answer.

AGCW WEBSITE

PA3BWK is running a very well constructed and interesting site on <http://www.dutch.nl/wilbwk> with lots of links to others. Includes CW Software, CW Art, Humour, Q-Code list, Abbreviations, CW Hints and a simple Morse Code Sounder. You can even leave a hint by way of a handy form.

A host of links finds FOC, A-1, Vibroplex Collector, Beginners Guide, MEGS, Telegraph related info, Morsum Magnificat, Telegraph and Scientific Instrument Cyber-museum and of course, FISTS.

For those interested, the software available comprises PILEUP by G4ZFE which requires Windows and a Soundblaster compatible sound card, Morse Code Training by Stormy Weather Software and VK3ESMs Programs.

LATEST UPDATES

The latest number on the ALLFISTS database is a magnificent 4362 and, drop-outs or Silent Keys aside, gives us a total of 3062 active members at the time of writing. This number varies on what is almost an exponential upward curve and despite this, represents only a fraction of those who practice and support the mode. Hardly surprising then that the full columnised printed listings are halfway down page 10 and I am set to leap into page 11 and upwards at any time. The US growth is nothing short of phenomenal and I see they now include South America and others on the continent. My Ham Log has been kept up-to-date as far as possible and of course, for those using this, the tables are available for a blank 3.5" formatted disc and return postage. I continue to keep the ALLFISTS data as separate data files of course and for convenience, they are ordered on both Call and Number.

CENTURY AWARD

Just a reminder since some of you are unsure, that QSL cards are not required for your claims. Simply get an independent Radio Amateur to confirm your

log (this need not necessarily be a FISTS member) and when you amass a total of 100 points, shoot it off to Bob, G0FRL.

Remember that when hunting for Gold Award targets, you be advised to keep a list of members currently holding the Century. We do NOT issue Century numbers with the current list. This would be self defeating in a way because you are expected to obtain this on-air. Don't want to make it too easy do we?

FINALE

This awful bug had really taken so much out of me that I felt it necessary to restrict this letter to a single sheet or I would never get the darned thing out. However, on the last minute so to speak, I have shaken it off so things are almost back to normal. At one point, I thought the virus was sexually selective but then my Daughter caught it and an absent face in the mornings later proved that one of the district nurses had also succumbed. Some folks seem to have a defence against it though and thus far, Ivy has not been affected. I also note that Bob, G0FRL has escaped it whilst Elaine (his long suffering XYL) fell victim. Latest news though is that this is incorrect and the last telephone call from him left me wondering if someone's pet toad had been trained to operate the phone.

As a matter of interest, the 20th day of January this year registered another milestone as G3ZQS celebrated (or rather struggled through) his 70th. Birthday. It is no delight to me that I now join the expanding band of Septogenarians that form a substantial part of the club and I am now trying to assess the odds of reaching the status of Octogenarian... I have reached the stage where my fuse is getting shorter and my general demeanour is becoming more and more beligerent.

"Young people now love luxury. They have bad manners, contempt for authority and disrespect for their elders. They no longer get up when old people enter the room. They contradict their parents, wolf their food and tyrannise their teachers". Sound familiar? These words were uttered by Socrates who departed this world in 399BC and we thought it was a modern phenomenon.

73/88 for now good people. Whenever I find time to get on the air I will do and hope to add to my impressive array of scalps. Hi.

Stay sober de Geo.

HOW DO I...

...ORDER CLUB SUPPLIES? Irene WO8E 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr. Clinton Twp, MI 48038 has gold logo stickers, 200 for \$5; Blue enamel/gold metal clasp-back logo pins \$3.50; Cloth logo patches 3" octagon shaped \$1.50 Rubber stamps with the FISTS logo for use with an ink pad (not included) for \$5. "I Support KNOW Code" buttons for .75 FISTS Logo mugs are currently out of stock. These prices DO include first class postage.

...GET AN UP-TO-DATE MEMBERLIST? The list is printed in the KeyNote twice a year and is also on the Web page. A printed updated list may be obtained by sending \$1 (to defray costs- it's 10 pages long) to Ed N7CFA 2628 Lilac Street, Longview WA 98632. Corrections to Ed at n7cfa@kalama.com

...GET ON THE FISTS ON-LINE Email LIST? Send your Email address with your name/call/FISTS number to blafont@tir.com

...GET/SEND FISTS QSL CARDS Via BURO? Stan K4UK, with the assistance of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club handles FISTS QSL bureau. Sort your outgoing FISTS cards by call area, then alphabetically and mail to K4UK, 1020 Long Island Dr, Moneta VA 24121. To receive cards you may have waiting at the bureau, send K4UK a few SASEs. QSLs will NOT be sent to you unless you have sent in an SASE or made arrangements with Stan. His Email is stanreas@rev.net

...RENEW MY KEYNOTE SUBSCRIPTION? Send a check/M.O. made out to FISTS for \$15/year to Nancy WZ8C POBox 47 Hadley MI 48440. ***What's the Family Plan?*** All CW folks at the same QTH can belong to FISTS for one subscription fee of \$15. You will each have your own FISTS number, but only one Keynote will be mailed per address. Student rate = \$10 if not in a Family Plan.

...SPONSOR A DX FISTS? DX FISTS have a separate block of numbers; their Keynote is mailed from Geo G3ZQS. Send their info to Geo 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwen Lancs, BB3 2LZ; he'll send them a DX application .

...HAVE AN APPLICATION OR NEWSLETTER SAMPLE SENT TO FRIENDS? Send their address Joe K5HLR 29 Melrose Dr, Marrero LA, 70072. Pse enclose \$1 if sample Keynote is requested. An application is also available, in text format, for downloading on our Web page <http://www.FISTS.org>

...APPLY FOR THE CENTURY or WAS AWARD? Send a list of contacts (call, FISTS #, date, band) and power used to Joe N3LBC, 222 E Bertsch St, Lansford PA 18232. Don't submit QSLs. There is no charge to FISTS members for the regular Century Award. If you are applying for the Golden/Diamond Century or the Platinum, send your request directly to HQ in England (119 Cemetery Rd, Darwen Lancs England BB3 2LZ) including sufficient return postage.

...VOLUNTEER FOR or GET A CODE BUDDY? send your requirements and info to John W9EM, 34020 N. Hickory, Grayslake IL60030

...SHARE COMPUTER SOFTWARE? Joe WZ8U 5428 Bolander Grand Blanc MI 48439

...GET MY PHOTO ON THE PHOTOPAGES? Send a snapshot of yourself to Ken W8ROG 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr. Clinton Twp, MI 48038

...GET A COPY OF FISTS PRESENTATION Contact Joe KK5NA at KK5NA@quadj.com or 3618 Monridge Ct, Arlington, TX 76016. Let him know the date and approx number of attendees.

...FIND THE WEB PAGE? <http://www.FISTS.org>

...SUGGEST IDEAS FOR THE WEB PAGE? Contact Bill KK4KF at bjmyers@arc.net

...ORDER FISTS CLUB QSL CARDS? send SASE to WX9X at 354 West St, Valparaiso IN 46383

...ORDER A FISTS CLUB ID BADGE? Our club badge is dark blue, with FISTS logo in gold and your name, FISTS number, callsign and "Int'l Morse Preservation Society" in white. They are \$6.95 post-paid from The Signman of Baton Rouge 879 Castle Kirk Dr, Baton Rouge LA 70808; email nv5a@aol.com

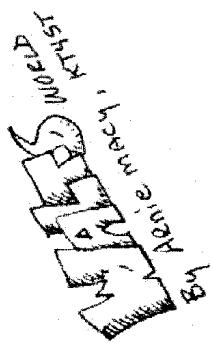
A non-engraved, laminated club badge is available from Bruce Eichmann W2BE, 204 E. Lake Blvd, Medford NJ 08055. Cost is \$4.75, NJ residents \$5.00 because of tax.

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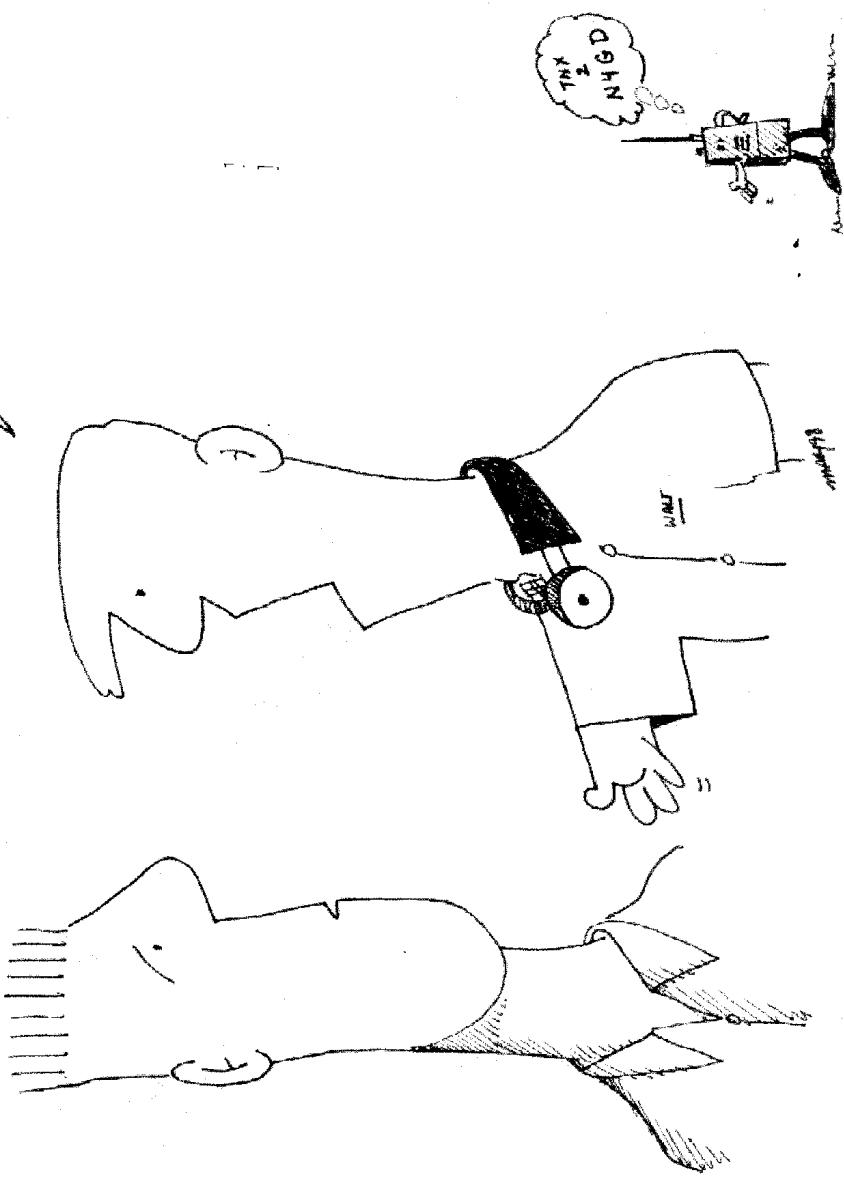
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